



Seoul, Korea

January 6, 1897

A.A. Pieters  
Colporteur, American Bible Society

On account of the visit of Rev. Mr. Loomis [representative of the American Bible Society in Japan] to Korea I could not leave Seoul before October 24<sup>th</sup>. Leaving Chemulpo by steamer on the 25<sup>th</sup> I arrived at Pyeng Yang on the 27<sup>th</sup> and having spent Sunday there I left for the interior southwest from Pyeng Yang. The first night after starting we spent in a village of some six houses. Before it got dark I took a few books and went out to see whether I could sell a copy or two. Unexpectedly I met a man who had visited Pyeng Yang some time ago and bought a Gospel of Luke and a Catechism. He got so attracted to those books that he read them all through and learned by heart the ten commandments and the Lord's prayer. He told the people what good books they were and they all returned with me to the inn and spent the evening there being taught some of the truths of Christianity. I sold three Testaments and five Gospels. I may say here that the reason why I sell more single Gospels than Testaments is because only the four Gospels and the Acts are as yet translated into Korean. The Testaments that I sell are Chinese and can only be read by good scholars. The farmers and common laboring people can only read single Gospels which are translated into Korean.

After visiting several other places I arrived at a little town called Sam Ai. It is but a very small place, and I did not expect to sell any Scriptures there. Next day was market day [every fifth day in Korean villages farmers come into town, set up stalls and sell a great variety of goods] but there were very few merchants in attendance. Nevertheless, I took out my package of books and began to invite the people to read and buy them. At first all their attention was only attracted by my person. They fingered my hat, clothes, books, everything but the books. I waited patiently and when all their curiosity in that line was satisfied they began to look at the books: When they were told what books they were, one after the other they began to buy them and in half an hour I sold eleven Testaments and twenty-seven Gospels. On my way farther I passed a little market. As it was not the time to stop for dinner I took down my bundle of books and sent my horse ahead. Immediately I was surrounded by a crowd and in a very little while I sold six Testaments and nineteen Gospels. This was the last place in the province of Pyeng An. Though I did not sell very many books in this part of the trip it was evident that the people who bought the Scriptures did not buy them simply for curiosity but because they knew something about Christianity and wanted to learn more. Almost in every place there were several men who tried to show that they were acquainted with the "Jesus Doctrine", as they call it. One would say that he knew the followers of this doctrine have to keep Sabbath. Another would say he knew a Christian must not drink, lie, steal, etc. Another one would speak out that he knew this doctrine teaches to honor parents (a thing that the Koreans are very strict about, not only when their parents are living but far more after they are dead). Every one who bought a book was told to go to Pyeng Yang and inquire of the American missionaries if he wants to learn more about this religion.

Going on, I got to the mouth of the Tai-Tong river which I intended to cross and go over into the province of Whang-Hai. When we got to the ferry we found that all the boats were too small to take my horse over, and we had to go around to another place about ten miles distant. When we arrived there we found that the boat had just left and that we would have to wait until next day, as the boat was going only once a day. The only thing to do was to make ourselves at



home in the single room of the single inn of the place. By the evening the inn got well filled up and by the time we went to bed there were twenty-five of us who were going to spend the night in that one small room. It was a good opportunity to talk to the people and have them to read the Scriptures. The whole evening was spent this way, and I sold one Testament and fourteen Gospels. Next day about noon the boat came at last. As usual there was a long distance of mud to pass before one could get to the boat, and most of the passengers paid the boatman for carrying them over on his back. We had to cross a piece of water about ten miles wide, and it took the boatman the whole afternoon to do it. To a foreigner it is very wearisome to see the Korean method of propelling boats. No matter how large the boat is, even though its capacity is several tons, it has only one boatman and only one oar on the keel which is moved in the water back and forth, something like a fish moves its tail when swimming. Unless some impatient passenger gets up and helps the boatman (which, by the way, does not happen often) the latter has to work alone, and, of course, under such circumstances the boat cannot be expected to move as fast as a steamboat. By the time we reached the other side and the passengers and the baggage were carried over from the boat to the dry ground, it began to grow dark. We had to spend another night in an inn with the same amount of people as the night previous who were waiting for the boat which was going next day.

Soon after I went to sleep I was suddenly awakened by my near neighbor who had a severe spell of epilepsy. It affected my nerves so that I could not go to sleep any more during the whole night. Next day I went on to Chang-Nion. On the way we stopped to rest by a single house which was by the road. Soon the host came out. I asked him whether he had ever seen Christian books. He said he had heard about that doctrine but had never read any books. Then I offered to sell them to him and briefly explained their teaching. He was very much interested and gladly bought a Testament and eleven Gospels. In the evening of the same day I arrived at Chang-Nion. On account of the market I was obliged to stay four days there. In the meanwhile I visited another market about ten miles distant from Chang-Nion. While I was staying at Chang-Nion the people were constantly coming to see me and of course, none of them went away without being spoken to. Many of them bought books. In the evenings a good many people would gather in our inn and the whole time would be spent in preaching to them and reading the Scriptures. Thus I sold twenty Testaments and sixty-one Gospels in that town. While in the market I met two men who told me they were Christians and belonged to a church about fifteen miles distant from Chang-Nion. (By the word "church" I do not mean an organized church as at home, but a company of believers who have a place of worship where they regularly assemble.) They invited me to go and see their church. It was not far away from my road and I thought I would go. It is but a very small village of some ten families, all of whom are Christians. They had raised among themselves money enough to build a large chapel. They seemed to be very glad to see me and in the evening and next morning we had two prayer meetings. From there I went to Ah-Nak. When I arrived there I found a good many Christians from different churches not far from that place who came up to get the magistrate to stop the official squeezings that were going on in their villages. In the evening we had a long prayer meeting at which, besides the Christians, there was present a large crowd of other people. Next morning the Christians were returning to their homes, and some of them invited me to go down and see their church which was about five miles distant from Ah-Nak. I gladly went. It was again a large chapel built by the native Christians. In the evening that I arrived, and next morning before I left, we

had two prayer meetings. There are a good many baptized members there and a great many more catechumens. All of these men are good Christians, but two of them are especially worth mentioning. Their names are Mr. Kim and Mr. Han. Both of them give all of their time to the Lord's work. Mr. Kim does not receive a cent, and Mr. Han, being very poor, gets a support of one dollar a month. Both of them are all the time going about the country from village to village preaching the Gospel, sometimes both together, and sometimes separately. Often they do not return home for several weeks. Hundreds of people were converted through these two men. In a number of places where there would be several converts in one village they would raise money among themselves and build a chapel.

Frequent invitations were sent to the missionaries in Pyeng Yang to come and see them. Thus, just recently, the people of a certain village where no missionary had ever been, built a large chapel and when Rev. Mr. Lee [Graham Lee] of the Northern Presbyterian Mission was visiting other churches, they asked him to come down and pay them a visit. It was a very nice surprise and in one evening he received forty-two catechumens there. I don't think there is any greater happiness in this world than to see those heathen, who a few years ago did not know anything about God or salvation, and who are now not only worshiping the only true God, but also giving all their time to preaching the Gospel. May the Holy Spirit strengthen them and so act through them that all their native brothers may soon be brought to Christ.

While going on our way in one place we had to cross a narrow channel of the sea the banks of which were very steep and on account of the tide being out were very muddy. To get down to the boat there were paths on both sides made of stones which were fitted for anything but walking. After a good deal of trouble we got the horse down to the boat, but while trying to ascend on the other side - he stumbled over the stones of the path and got into the mud which was three feet deep. Trying to get out he fell and the whole load fell into the mud. It took us a long time to take the things out and we had to spend the whole day washing and drying them. However, the delay was not quite useless. I spent a pleasant day in the house of a Christian family that was living there, and besides that, I met two Christians from another village who told me they were living not far from my road, and as there were a good many Christians in that village they would be very glad to see me.

Some time ago a man from that village, Mr. Chai, learned that there were some foreigners in Pyeng Yang who were teaching a new religion. Afterwards when a friend of his was going to Pyeng Yang, Mr. Chai asked him to buy some Christian books. The friend brought with him a Testament, some single Gospels, a catechism and a hymn book. Through those books Mr. Chai was converted. Soon after his conversion he began to preach the Gospel, not only to his neighbors, but to everybody whom he would meet. Now, though there are only a few baptized members in that church, there are a good many who profess to be Christians. Among themselves they had already raised money and were going to build a chapel.

I arrived there on Thursday night. On the following Saturday and Tuesday there were two large markets to be held not far from that place. The Christians insisted very much on my staying there over Sunday, and as it suited, I did so. While I was staying there people from other villages were constantly coming to see me. Some of them came as far as ten miles. Every



morning we devoted to the study of the Bible and in the evenings we had prayer meetings. On Sunday we had a long service. So many people came to the Sunday service that although the house was quite large, there was not room enough in it and we had to spread mats in the yard and had the service in the open air.

When I went to the above-mentioned market, Mr. Chai and several other Christians went along with me to preach there. This Mr. Chai gives his house, his wealth and all his time to the Lord's work. All the meetings are held in his house. If anybody comes Mr. Chai receives him into his house and feeds him. While I was there a good many people, as I said, were calling, and Mr. Chai always made them stay the whole day, and of course furnished them their food. On Sunday forty people took dinner at his house. And this man is only a common farmer who has not even an acre of land of his own. This shows how the Holy Spirit can work in a man. I spent four days and addressed seven meetings at that place.

The last remarkable work I saw on this trip was in a little town by the name of Chai-nong[?]. Before I arrived there I did not expect to meet anybody who knew anything about Christianity. But when I arrived I was surprised to find a good many Christians. I do not think that even the missionaries of Pyeng Yang knew about it. A man of that place has a Christian relative who is living in a village where there is a church. While visiting that relative last summer he heard the Gospel and found Christ. After he returned home he began to preach to his neighbors, and at present about twenty men profess to be Christians. The only books they had were a Testament and a catechism which has a form of prayer and five hymns at the end. Every Sunday and also on other days they meet, read the Testament and the prayer and say the hymns. They do not know much, but are trying to do their best and it seems to me that this is not less acceptable to God than a service in a large church at home with beautiful music and a powerful sermon. In the evening we had a prayer meeting, and next day after the market was over I started for Seoul. I arrived home December 22<sup>nd</sup> having sold nine hundred and fifteen Gospels and a hundred and seven Testaments.

I enjoyed this two-months' trip much more than any former trip. Nothing can express the happiness I felt seeing how the Lord's work is spreading all over the country and how the Holy Ghost is taking hold of these people. May the Lord hasten the time when "the kings of the earth and all the people, princes, and all judges of the earth, both young men and maidens, old men and children" will praise the Lord of hosts.

A.A. Pieters

Seoul, Korea

January 17, 1897

Horace G. Underwood

Dear Dr. Ellinwood:-

I have written to Mr. Hand the reasons that made it seem imperative that Mrs. Underwood should return immediately to America and the circumstances under which she will go. It has been quite a trial to us to decide upon this course but with the work in its present condition and the few workers that we have it was altogether impossible for us to think of my leaving as well. I wish much that it could have been so, but we could not leave the work just now and that too after the good Lord has so far restored my health that I am able to put in some good long days of work.

Pray for us and the work here. There is a tremendous wide open door just now. Whole villages (with in some cases but little knowledge as to who God and Christ are) have destroyed their idols and proclaimed themselves Christian and the question is, who is sufficient for these things. Mrs. Underwood goes to America by the steamer that takes this and will, I hope, see you while she is home and be able to tell you much about the work and what God is doing. While she is away Miss Wambold is going to take up her classes and thus the evangelistic work will go along apace. I will try and write at greater length in a short time. Just now Mrs. Underwood has one day to get ready to start home in and we are about to start to Fusan to make the investigations in accord with your cable to Dr. Avison. Asking interest in your prayers at this time especially,

Yours in the work,

H.G. Underwood

Pyongyang, Korea

Jan. 20, '97

Graham Lee

Dear Moffett:

Ko came in this morning with the mail bringing your letter from Honolulu which, it is needless to say, it was a delight to receive. We are pegging along as usual trying to do what we can with our one-handed knowledge of the language. I believe the Koreans get a little good from me but O! how little it must be. Miller is here now, and the class is in full swing. We have about fifty attending, 32 or 33 that we pay for and the balance at their own expense. Two women came up from Whang Hai and are attending at their own charges. We have a good lot of men and I think they are getting good. Part of my time I give to teaching singing and they are making fine progress. Mrs. Lee and I invited them to the house on two evenings. Half came one evening and half the next. We had games, etc. and they all seemed to enjoy themselves.

Last Sunday we had the Communion and baptized 23. There are more to be examined but the days are so full that we don't get much time to give to them. About 100 took part in the Communion. Our church presents the same problem as last year. It is again too small to accommodate all who wish to come. I'm stuck now for I don't know how to enlarge any more unless we put on another wing and make the building a cross. We have up only our stove, that "Riverside" - and it is ample, making the building very comfortable. Among those baptized were six women. Yang reports splendid work in his district. Whittemore is to start up there just as soon as the roads allow in the spring. "Whit" has been bucking too hard at the language and has been a little under the weather for a day or two. He is just a fine fellow, Moffett, and it is beautiful to see the way he is going at the language. He don't [doesn't] say much but he sits down and digs like a Trojan. Doc. [Dr. J. Hunter Wells] speaks all the time about what he is going to do whereas "Whit" says nothing but does it.

We are having our coldest weather - 12 below [fahrenheit], but we are snug and comfortable, as our house is very warm. Telegram just came to us from Vinton telling of Miss Jacobson's death. She died today, Jan. 20. She had abcess [abscess] of the liver, and had to be operated upon from which she never rallied. God's ways are past finding out.

Am having more snow this winter than I have ever seen in Korea. After class Miller is to go down to Anak on his way home and I leave for the Syoun An and Han Chun circuit. The snow is so deep I don't know how it will be for itinerating.

Choi, the broker, (?) our Choi, had a son born to him the other day and in consequence is happy. We are planning to baptize the child next Sunday, which



will be the first infant baptism, will it not?

We are all very well and happy in our work. It is a great treat to have Miller with us and we are enjoying it exceedingly. Evidently great pressure is being brought to bear upon him in Seoul for he don't [doesn't] talk as he did the night he came home. I don't know whether he will come here or not, but this I know that if we are in the right spirit at the next meeting, it will be decided all right. I hope this will find you getting well fast for you know you must do that before you can come back here. Everything is going well I think, and the work is progressing, but we do miss you so and we will begin to count the days till your return before long.

With love from us all

Ever yours,

Graham Lee



Pyeng Yang, Korea

Jan 22, 1897

Graham Lee

Dear Mr. Dulles:

Owing to the large increase in our work here our Training Class is larger than we anticipated and in consequence the appropriation is about fifty yen too small. Can we have the privilege of taking fifty yen from Class IV Evangelistic item "new work" to help out the Training Class appropriation? The reason we are not using this money for new helpers is that the helpers are supported partially by the British and Foreign Bible Society, and partially by the native church in Pyeng Yang.

The B. & F.B.S. [British & Foreign Bible Society] are willing to do this because our men sell their books. If this is not allowed we will have to make up the deficiency from our own pockets and there are so many calls that our pockets don't always hold out.

The work still grows and our church in P.Y. is again too small. Last Sunday we had the communion, there being 100 communicants present. Twenty three were baptized.

The church was packed and we had an audience of nearly five hundred.

Mr. Miller is here now helping me with the Training Class and we are having a fine class.

In regard to the transfer of appropriations the Station instructed me to write you.

Sincerely yours,

Graham Lee

Seoul, Korea

January 25, 1897

Oliver R. Avison

Rev. F.F. Ellinwood, D.D.

Dear Sir:

It is with much sorrow that I perform the sad duty of writing you the details of the sickness and death of Miss Jacobson. Last August she had a severe attack of dysentery from which she apparently wholly recovered, returning to her work at the hospital about the beginning of October. But the sequel proves that while she recovered from the dysentery, the poisonous matter was carried to another part of her system to develop later on. She complained more or less of illness during the progress of the Annual Meeting in October but only of indefinite symptoms, keeping up until the meetings closed, when she suddenly yielded to an attack of chills and fever of a severe type. For the first day or two it was thought to be malarial intermittent fever but the symptoms began to develop more like typhoid fever and for a week or so we feared it might prove to be such, but then again changed and presented the type of malarial remittent fever. In the course of a week or two as the fever did not yield to the usual treatment and some local symptoms developed in the liver I was led to fear the development of suppuration in that organ, especially as she had recently suffered from dysentery which is frequently the originator of a hepatic abscess. However, many of her symptoms improved and she was able to go out in her chair occasionally. At the beginning of her illness we placed her in a room in our new house where she remained until able to be about, when she accepted one of the many invitations of friends in both our own Mission and the Methodist Mission, and went up to Dr. Vinton's.

Her condition however, did not change much, except that the local symptoms became more prominent, the pain especially becoming more severe and the liver becoming gradually larger, so that we became more and more inclined to the opinion that she was suffering from an hepatic abscess.

I explained to her fully what I feared and told her plainly of the danger connected with such a condition, but she received the information with perfect calmness, declaring her trust in her Savior and her readiness to go if called upon. I explained to her the need of making an aspiration of the liver in order to make sure of the diagnosis and told her that if we found pus it would be necessary to perform a serious operation in order to evacuate it. She said she would like to go to a hospital where she could have trained nurses for the operation and we all agreed that it would be best for her to do so. She, however, desired to have the aspiration done here so that she might know what her condition was, so on January 7<sup>th</sup> Dr. Vinton administered an anaesthetic and I in the presence of several physicians aspirated, and to our regret found pus at the first insertion of the needle. We withdrew about 5 ounces of pus by means of the aspirator and she recovered nicely from the anaesthetic and for a day or two was much more comfortable. She then stated she wished the operation to be performed here and as there was also a general consensus of opinion that the journey overland to Chemulpo followed by a sea voyage in midwinter to Tokio or Shanghai would endanger her life very much, it was finally decided to operate here. We all realized the gravity of the proceeding and took every precaution that we could here to secure a successful result. Monday morning, January 11<sup>th</sup> was fixed upon and



nearly all the members of both the Methodist and our own Missions met just before the hour for operating and united in asking God's blessing upon it, while at the same time the native Christians met in their church for the same purpose. The operation involved first an abdominal section and then cutting through the liver tissue until the abscess was opened and the pus evacuated. After considerable difficulty owing to the depth of the abscess, this was accomplished and she was placed in bed to recover from the anaesthetic which, as before, was administered by Dr. Vinton. I was assisted in the operation by Drs. Whiting, Cutler, and Busted, while Mrs. Bunker and Miss Wambold also were present and rendered valuable help; two of my Korean hospital boys also, at Miss Jacobsen's special request, being present and assisting. She suffered a good deal from the shock of the operation but after a few hours recovered from that and apparently progressed fairly until Saturday afternoon, January 16<sup>th</sup> when serious symptoms developed. Her stomach had refused nourishment and we had had to depend upon rectal feeding so that she had become very weak. But her temperature had fallen to normal and her pulse had improved materially and on Saturday morning we were very hopeful of a good result as no abdominal symptoms had set in. However, on Saturday afternoon the pulse suddenly gave way and during the night I feared she would not last until morning. But she revived early Sunday morning and gave us a little hope which, however, was soon dashed by her falling again into collapse. We watched with her all day Sunday looking for her death and all Sunday night, but Monday morning found her better, pulse stronger and head clear, and we again hoped, especially as she was able to retain a good deal of nourishment. So she continued all day Monday and Monday night and until Tuesday morning. About noon on Tuesday she began to fail again, having developed symptoms of trouble in the lungs. During that afternoon she coughed up a quantity of bloody matter which caused us to think it probable that a secondary abscess had developed there, in which case of course we could hope no longer. She gradually sank and at 12:30 a.m. Wednesday, peacefully breathed her last.

Her illness and death have been a source of great grief to us all and I am sure you will be shocked but we are comforted by the glorious testimony she gave of her sustaining faith and by the perfect satisfaction she expressed with everything that had been done for her. The entire community has been aroused to an unusual degree of sympathy. The Russian Minister gave order that no noise should be made by the soldiers of the guard so that all the usual bugle calls, beating of drums, etc. was discontinued. Champagne, more than could be used, was sent from the Russian Legation, the English Legation, and the Customs. The ladies of both Methodist and Baptist missions vied with those of our own in assisting to nurse her, and in fact everybody, including the Korean Christians did all they could to show their sympathy and their desire for her recovery. While we who were in attendance were constantly held up in prayer that we might with clear heads and steady hands be sustained during the trying ordeal.

What can I say of her? She gave us all an object lesson in perfect resignation to God's will, in calmness under severe trial, in joyful going forward to meet her Savior, that we shall not soon forget. When I told her that a change for the worse had occurred, she said: "if so, it is well. I am not afraid. I am so glad I came here. It is good to die in the harness. I am glad I did not go to Japan for I am dying amongst friends. If I were trusting in my own merit I would not stand, but when I think of all Christ has done for me, I have no fear. It is sweet to die."



1/25/1897 - p.3 O.R.A.

The operations were performed in Mr. Miller's house. After her death the body was removed to Dr. Underwood's as it was felt that there would be a larger attendance at the funeral than could be accommodated in Mr. Miller's house. The funeral was held Friday at 11 a.m. and was largely attended by both foreigners and natives. The coffin was carried all the way to the cemetery, a distance of 4 miles, on the shoulders of the native Christians who refused to allow coolies to be called, although the Korean custom is to commit such work entirely to coolies. Foreigners also relieved them during the progress to the cemetery and the wall of separation received in this way another blow towards its demolition. The Christians sang hymns all the way down to the cemetery and altogether the spectacle was very striking and a manifest proof that there was a strong wedge entered in to separate from the hard and fast customs to which they have been bound.

I am writing you concerning other matters but as I am not through with them I hasten to send this off separately that you may get these details without unnecessary delay. I have entered into the details of her illness with some minuteness as I thought you would like to know all about her sickness and what caused her untimely death.

Yours very sincerely,

O.R. Avison

Ft. Wayne, Indiana

January 30, 1897

Samuel A. Moffett

Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

I am just in receipt of letters from Pyeng Yang showing that the work there is developing more & more and reaching out to new points to such an extent that it cannot possibly be properly cared for without re-enforcements.

While I know you feel this also and are ready to supply the need - my object in writing just now is to ask if something cannot be done to forward the arrangements for getting the two ladies to be sent to Pyeng Yang under appointment and on their way, and also a lady for Seoul whose presence is so much more needed since Miss Jacobson's death.

As I understand it the money has been promised for the two ladies for Pyeng Yang and you have also the offer to send another to Korea from the lady who, seeing Mrs. Bishop's letter, wrote offering the cost of an evening dress. Cannot ladies now on your list of applicants be appointed in view of these offers?

In Pyeng Yang we want to begin building the house for the two ladies by the 1st of May and it will be a great advantage to have them on the field before the building is begun. The invitations to deliver addresses pour in upon me thick & fast and I am planning to do as much of it as I think consistent with the conservation of my own strength. I spoke in the Pres. Church in Bucyrus, Ohio on my way here - am to speak in the 1st Church and twice next week in Indianapolis. I have also arranged to make a tour in the Southern part of the state in my own Presbytery. I am constantly praying that the church may be led to a higher degree of consecration in order to take advantage of present opportunities on the mission field. I trust that this year our hearts will be gladdened by increased gifts instead of as we have been fearing, a falling off.

With kindest regards to yourself and all in the Board rooms whom it was my privilege to meet and to know personally.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Samuel A. Moffett

P.S. In your rush of work - do not feel called upon to answer all the letters I may send you. I write simply to keep you posted as to my own movements and as to whatever facts from the field or elsewhere come to my notice.

S.A.M.

(Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, PCUSA Board of Foreign Missions, Korea Correspondence, microfilm reel #179, Vol. 8, #82)

Madison, Indiana

February 5, 1897

Samuel A. Moffett

Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

I have just arrived at home after two days spent in Indianapolis making addresses in the 2nd Church and 7th Church. I find your letter of Jan'y 30th awaiting me and you may be sure I lose no time in answering it for it deals with the question uppermost in my thoughts and prayers.

I greatly regret that the slightest idea is being entertained that we do not need at once and greatly need the whole 14 missionaries asked for. Mr. Gifford and I only spoke of a minimum because of the fact that you all gave us to understand that we could not possibly get 14 for Korea this year.

However in speaking of the minimum - you are correct in representing us as stating most clearly that the seven we mentioned were exclusive of the two Halifax gentlemen to take up Mr. McKenzie's work.

Please allow me to repeat what I think Mr. Gifford & I both very clearly presented in all our various conversations while in & near New York.

(1) In addition to the two men to take up Mr. McKenzie's work (certainly not to be neglected) we cannot look after present work not to mention advance without the following:

- (2) Two ladies for Pyeng Yang
- (3) One Minister " " " (either married or unmarried)
- (4) One lady for Seoul
- (5) One Minister for Fusan
- (6) One Lady Doctor for Seoul
- (7) One Physician for Gensan [Wonsan]

These are the seven referred to - but are exclusive of two from Canada who are indispensable.

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(8) The request following these is for a Minister for Tagoo [Taegu] in the Fusan Station as a colleague for Mr. Adams and my own personal suggestion to you was that as he will have pioneer work I thought an unmarried man, if of the right kind, would be best adapted to this need. That however is a personal opinion.

(9) The next request is for a Physician for the same place.

(10) The next request for a Lady for the Hospital Seoul is of course now an imperative one - since Miss Jacobson has been called to higher service.

The above I think is clear and answers your questions - I had also suggested



2/05/97 – p.2 S.A.M.

as a personal opinion that I thought it would be well were one of the Halifax gentlemen to go unmarried.

I sincerely hope & pray that the Lord will provide the means and I eagerly await news of definite actions leading to definite appointments and arrangements for sailing for Korea.

With kindest regards to you all,

Sincerely yours,

Samuel A. Moffett

Extract of a letter to S.A. Moffett:

I have just returned from a trip to Kangthe [?], Soon An Circuit, having visited five places. I baptized 16 adults and one baby and received 109 Catechumens. The work is in fine shape and growing splendidly. There were some most interesting cases. At a point 2 miles from the city a new work has sprung up. The man who was possessed with demons and got cured at the Soon An Church lives there. On Christmas day half the village threw out their evil spirits and now they are very much interested. I there baptized this man, his wife and their little child. At Cha Chak I baptized [can't read number] and received [among] the catechumens a blind man whose son was among those who were baptized. The blind man gave up his whole outfit. It is a very interesting case. The son you [Moffett] received as a catechumen. He passed a splendid examination and is certainly a Christian. Ever since becoming a catechumen he has been at his father to give up the "demon exorcist" business and kept saying "if you will give up this I will work hard and make enough to support us both." At last the old man yielded and when I came was ready to be received as a catechumen.

At Kal Won I baptized that old man who had been a Roman Catholic, the one who bought a Testament and got his eyes opened. You visited the old man at his home and received some catechumens there. His house you remember was in a village a mile from the market place and this the people use as a church. The old man is very much in earnest and wants to use everything he has in the Lord's service.

At Han Chun I baptized a man who has been a dreadful sinner. He was a gambler by profession and a libertine, wine drinker and about everything else that is bad. I wish you could have heard his examination. I could not keep back the tears when I heard his story. Since he quit gambling he could find no work to do and all winter they have had a very hard time. His wife has taken in sewing and on what she has been able to make they have managed to get along. All winter they have had nothing but millet to eat and sometimes not that. When he used to gamble they always lived well and had plenty of white rice but since he became a Christian it has been nothing but millet. He said sometimes there would be no wood for the fire and no millet to eat and if he was tempted to gamble he would go over to the Church and read the Bible and then he would feel all right. His old mother is still a heathen and she keeps at him continually to go to gambling again but he has stood firm all through the cold winter. What but the grace of God could make such a change in that man? It was a pathetic story and he told it in such a simple straightforward way that my heart went out to him.

Song has been doing splendidly and I had such a good talk with him. (Song

is one of the men in attendance upon the prayer-meeting in Pyeng Yang in 1894 when the persecution broke out. He was beaten, tied with red cord and threatened with death. He is now the leader of the church at Han Chun serving gratuitously.) -- [this latter note added by S.A. Moffett].

He says that everything he has belongs to the Lord and he wants to use it all in his service. Sometimes I am dazed by the work. It is spreading so. Do you remember last winter after the Training Class, how the reports began to come in from all sides? Well, it is the same thing over again and people are coming in from everywhere and just begging for some one to come and teach them. There must be over fifteen new places where work has started since you left and the end is not yet. We were saying today at the table what a blessing we were privileged to have, in seeing this work. It is truly a wonderful manifestation of the Spirit. You cannot overdraw the picture for the work has gone far beyond what it was when you left. I have already (in 4 months) baptized 70 and have received over 400 Catechumens and there are a lot of people just waiting to be examined. Mrs. Lee's work keeps pace with the rest and the woman's building is growing too small. We are outgrowing everything and sometimes I feel just dumbfounded and do not know which way to turn or what to think. Pray for us much that we may have grace to guide this work aright.

The problem of an enlarged Church [in Pyeng Yang] faces us again. From next Sunday we are to have the women meet at a different hour because the people who want to come cannot all get in. We ought to have a building that will seat 1500 people and that right soon. It would all depend upon the question of raising the money. I should think it would take in the neighborhood of \$1500 to put up a building 45 feet wide and 80 feet long - giving each person an allowance of two square feet of space. The way Koreans sit (on the floor) I should think two square feet would be enough, when they were crowded.

[The reader may be interested to know that the village of Cha Jak was later, in 1902, the birthplace of the beloved Korean pastor Han Kyung-Jik [한경 지그모사]]



Madison, Indiana

February 23, 1897

Samuel A. Moffett

Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

Returning from a tour of a number of churches in this my own Presbytery where I was greeted with very full houses and the very best attention, I find your letter of the 17th bearing on the question of Mr. Swallen's location and the relative importance of Fusan & Tagoo [Taegu].

The question of removing Mr. Swallen to Fusan or Tagoo is one which has already occurred to the Mission and was spoken of as a possibility in case the Board did not grant an appropriation for his house this year. This was thought of not that he is not needed in Gensan but because we feel that his present location is not one from which he can do the best work. He will have however in his present province a large field and is planning to devote himself to the work in the interior as well as in the port. I see by a recent paper from Seoul that he had just returned from a trip to the interior. His work has not been as unfruitful as that in Fusan and seems to be promising quite an enlargement. However the idea of removing him to Fusan, leaving Mr. Gale to run the Gensan work alone is one which personally I should entertain with favor only in case the prospects are that the province in which Fusan & Tagoo are located cannot be provided with a considerably larger number of men. The region tributary to Gensan probably contains less than one million people - that tributary to Fusan & Tagoo more nearly three million.

Mr. Gale will soon be in New York and I wish the idea might be suggested to him and also presented to Mr. Swallen.

As between Fusan & Tagoo I have said persistently for years that Tagoo is the important point and I am sure that all of Mr. Adams' efforts will be for its development.

I expressed myself at the meeting in October as very much opposed to Dr. Irvin's plans for a large hospital in Fusan - until we should know definitely as to whether Tagoo was not the point upon which all expansion should be centered. The fact that we have a house now available in Fusan makes it advisable to send a man there temporarily rather than to Tagoo although he will in all probability go into Tagoo eventually unless another man is also sent. The work in all interior points is in my opinion far more promising and should first of all be encouraged, developed, organized & provided for.

With reference to your question as to whether \$3000.00 Mexican is sufficient for both house & lot for residence for ladies at hospital - I find it very difficult to answer.

2/23/97 - p.2 S.A.M.

So far as I know the location of the house is not definitely decided and its decision may make quite a difference in the cost. If land with Korean houses on it is purchased it may cost considerably more unless the materials in this house prove valuable enough to considerably diminish cost of building anew.

I am not on the Property Com. of the Mission and know nothing of the plans which have been made (if made) for the building and do not know whether it is to be for two or for three ladies although I think it is for three.

I am not in a position to answer your question. The request was for \$3500.00 Mexican and those who made the plans will know.

Your last question is with reference to an agreement with Dr. Jaisohn [Suh Jae-Pil] on school site, etc.

Dr. Underwood, Dr. Avison & Mr. Moffett were a Com. to see Dr. Jaisohn and secure his agreement in writing but had no power to make any definite binding agreement with him without the sanction of the Board.

I was not able to meet with the Committee - but brought from Dr. Underwood a copy of the agreement made by Dr. Jaisohn and this I placed in your hands while in New York. It is in Dr. Underwood's handwriting. The Mission has made no positive agreement with Dr. Jaisohn but awaits the action of the Board in the matter.

The serious condition of the finances must be causing you all very great regret. I prayerfully trust that the church may be aroused and that the condition may soon improve.

I go to Ft. Wayne for next Sabbath & then to Chicago to visit McCormick Seminary. Hope I may find just the man for Korea there.

Word from Miss Best speaks of her definite appointment but there seems to be great difficulty in finding a companion.

With sincerest regards,

Very Truly Yours,

Samuel A. Moffett

(Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, PCUSA Board of Foreign Missions, Korea Correspondence, microfilm reel #179, Vol. 8, unnumbered letter)

Madison, Indiana

February 26, 1897

Samuel A. Moffett

Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

I have received from Mr. Loomis of Yokohama a copy of the report of their Korean Colporteur who has just been through the region in Whang Hai province for which we are asking for a new missionary. The report is an intensely interesting one to me because it comes from one outside of our mission, one who going as a stranger into the field where our work has been developing finds just the same state of things to which we have been calling your attention. I hope you can spare the time to read the copy which I have had made and now forward to you.

I hope that a thoroughly good and true man may be found for this field. Word from Pyeng Yang tells of the gathering of the Winter Training Class with an attendance of fifty from all over the country. Mr. Miller had gone down from Seoul to assist Mr. Lee. Just before the Class the Communion was administered and 23 were newly baptized, others necessarily postponed from lack of time to properly and carefully examine them. Word from Dr. Woodbridge O. Johnson of Easton, Pa. tells me the Board will appoint him to Korea - if he can secure the funds. I suppose that means that he is to go to Gensan, does it not, or does your suggestion that Mr. Swallen be sent to Fusan involve sending Dr. Johnson to Tagoo?

I leave today for Ft. Wayne, Indiana where I speak twice on Sunday, once in 3rd Church & once in 1st Church. After a short visit to McCormick Seminary I shall leave with Mother for a complete rest in Georgia until the last of March when I go to Brooklyn and will drop in again at the Board Rooms.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Samuel A. Moffett

I hear that the Gales were to leave Yokohama with the Korean Prince on the *Peru* which sailed yesterday the 25th.

S.A.M.



Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

Before the appropriations are all decided upon I wish to make a plea for our two house appropriations. Dr. Wells needs a house and so does Mr. Baird. Dr. Wells is living in Mr. Moffett's house and Mr. Baird is living in the house built for the single ladies. When Moffett gets here he will want his house and ought to have it, and when the other single lady gets here Mr. Baird will have no place. If the Board intends to keep this Station manned properly these two houses will have to be built sooner or later, and the sooner the better. If no house appropriation is given us this year we will certainly be so crowded next year that it will be uncomfortable. I think the Board ought to make a special effort to give us at least one, if it don't [doesn't] feel that it can give us both. The need is certainly self evident.

I want to tell you how much we are all pleased with Miss Best. She is certainly a rare woman - a woman of fine ability and splendid judgment. It is beautiful to see the way she is taking hold of the language. I wish to speak also in the highest terms of Mr. Whittemore. He is a very earnest, consecrated, level-headed man and he is making a place for himself very rapidly, and is making his influence tell. From what we have seen of Mr. Hunt so far, we know that he has good stuff in him and has the making of a capital missionary. He has dived into the language head first and the way he is making his strokes tell is very gratifying.

We are exceedingly well pleased with our new people, and to have Mr. Baird also with us fairly makes our cup run over. Surely with such rare men as Moffett and Baird, and such admirable reinforcements in the new people you have sent us, we ought to do great things for God in this north Korea.

Mrs. Lee, Mrs. Webb [Mrs. Lee's mother] and our little boy are all very well and Mrs. Lee and Mrs. Webb join in kindest regards to you.

Sincerely yours,

Graham Lee

Dr. F[rank]F[ield] Ellinwood -

Dear Doctor:

The manual says that each station is expected to write a bi-monthly letter. Were you to hear from Pyongyang only that often it would be difficult for you to keep track of the growth and doings here. As a matter of fact, we here find it growing in every line beyond our ability to keep informed, much less to keep up with it. One of the latest things which has come to light is the fact that my teacher, Kim Chungsabe, has been greatly at work of evenings for a couple of years on a book - *The Relation or Difference Between Confucianism and Christianity*. After revision and correction the publication of such a work by a Korean Christian ought to be of good.

This hospital work increases as inpatients take more time than dispensary work. About 20 patients a day with 15 or 16 inpatients, is the situation now - and this with the newly opened Methodist hospital running "full blast". The population in and around Pyongyang can now furnish us both, the Methodists and myself, more than about 20 patients apiece daily. In Scoul, of course, I could draw 100 or so daily.

One thing about the work (evangelistic) here in Pyongyang - they don't need a hospital to draw or attract converts. Indirectly, hospitals and dispensaries are strong features of missionary effort but directly, I am afraid that they are often overrated. I write simply from my own experience of our 10,000 patients seen within the time I've been in Korea, and from reading, conversation and observation. I submit also that in my work and hospital all the assistants and helpers are Christians, and by walk and talk are always presenting the Gospel. I feel, therefore, that to do my duty as a medical missionary I must have some other work and am glad to report the Sunday School I have charge of as prosperous and growing. Starting a few months ago with 30 men, boys and no women, we - - for my wife has charge of the women - now report an attendance of over 100 men and boys and 25 women. This is on Sunday and is now in fine running order. A collection is taken each Sunday and from 25 to 60 cents raised, which is used to defray the expense of the lesson leaves which are in the inside of a newly established Christian weekly in the native character. But since this is now running well I want to spread out. We have to do that here and so, I am looking to the enlargement of the boys' school in town and later when Mr. Moffett returns, to the establishment of a technical school which won't cost but a little to start and will be self-supporting from the first.

What this letter is about particularly, though, is to report to you the wonderful success we have lately met with. You have been informed that since our arrival in November we have received over 300 catechumens. Well, 100 men are to be added for February and the total since November is something over 425. By adding them to the number reported at the Annual Meeting and then adding the total number baptized, you will see that we have a Christian constituency up here of much over 1000 people. The number of places where Services are held regularly every Sunday has been increased by 17, making a total of 41 different places here and in Whang Hai [province]. But what I'm reporting now is a different matter.

Our church here, as you know, regularly outgrows itself every few months. We have enlarged and enlarged until it's congregation, having grown too large for the church building, it became necessary to purchase buildings in another part of town for Women's meetings, at a cost of \$240. Mr. Lee presented the matter to the congregation asking for contributions, and \$100



was raised. Impossible to enlarge because of the low roof, etc., any more, to meet the pressing conditions at present we bought in another part of town a good building or several buildings for \$240<sup>00</sup> and after a congregational meeting, it was decided to make that a center for woman's work. It had to be done. The present church, although it seats crowded about 500, doesn't begin to accommodate all who come - so the women had to be transferred elsewhere. Some repairs were necessary, so at the service yesterday Mr. Lee presented the matter and asked for contributions of not less than \$1<sup>00</sup> and several gave \$2<sup>00</sup> apiece. Faster than the names could be written, \$50<sup>00</sup> was contributed, and in a short time by going gradually down to 20¢ gifts, over \$80<sup>00</sup> was raised, and the happiest lot of givers you ever saw!

For Pyengyang this far out-Simpsons Simpson in New York. Men, women and children contributed, but nothing spectacular about it. We report this with a heap of satisfaction and pleasure.

My wife joins me in best regards to yourself and to Dr. Brown.

Yours sincerely,

J. Hunter Wells

P.S. To carry out Mr. Moffett's ideas with which our own accord most heartily, of a large central church in Pyengyang, not only where all the people from the different centers of this city can meet on a Sunday, but a central church around which all the half hundred smaller churches in our territory will center, it has become absolutely necessary to enlarge to make a church seating 1500 or 2000 men and women, and our needs in this line have been written to Mr. Moffett. The people here can do much, but we must have some help from America. Dr. Brown tells us in his January letter in the *Assembly Herald*, that this is sometimes permitted. Mr. Moffett has the facts. Better a thousand times contribute or appropriate money for a needed church than for a fancy technical school.

We are all rejoiced over letters received from Mr. Moffett, but are concerned and prayerful over the financial condition of the Board. "The Lord is in His Heaven though, and all's right with the world" -

Yours sincerely,

J. Hunter Wells



Chicago, Illinois  
122 Ashland Boulevard

March 4, 1897

Lillias H. Underwood

Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

I received your kind letter the other day and thank you much for it. I am glad to say I found my mother much better than I had feared. The two physicians my father had consulted - both specialists and high in their profession - gave us no hope that she could be with us till Spring, and it was thought I might not reach here in time to be of service. She, however, suffers very little pain and that only occasionally, and is able to be about her room. She has great vitality and a good constitution so I should not be at all surprised if she were spared for many months. I find that my sister, who lives here in the city at quite a distance from our mother, hopes to move nearer in May and is prepared to make arrangements with me for her husband's relatives to come and take charge of her house and baby so that she (my sister) can come and give my mother much of her time and attention as soon as it becomes necessary. Whenever a trained nurse's care becomes necessary my mother will have one continually. Those facts learned after my arrival put rather a different aspect upon my duty and modify my plans.

It becomes more and more clear to me as I think of it, that I have no right to leave my delicate little boy without a mother's care during the unhealthy hot season in Korea. I did not really expect to do so when I left. In any case, I could not stay in here indefinitely away from my family and my work. The fact that my dear mother is still so strong and that she will not be wanting for tender and skilled care seem to indicate that my remaining here long is not an absolute necessity and my presence in Korea may be absolutely necessary to the life of my child. You see, I am in a sore strait betwixt two - I hardly fully understood the situation here. Letters leave things so misty and my mother's condition is a surprise to everyone. It has undoubtedly been and is a great comfort and happiness to her and my poor father to have me with them. I now think I shall stay till the last of April and then start back to Korea - which will bring me to Seoul about the middle of June. I hope to spend a few days in Brooklyn before I go back and if so, shall make an effort to see you.

I had a letter from Mr. Underwood Saturday in which he tells me that the Fusan investigation is over. The ladies withdrew their charges against Mr. Adamson. He was entirely cleared and my husband has hopes of a reconciliation between the parties. He has been holding nightly meetings with the natives since he has been there, which have been crowded to overflowing so that they have had to go into a second room. Numbers have risen for prayer and there seems a grand stirring up and a great blessing imminent - the more to be thankful for, as Fusan has been said by some to be a hopeless place. The Australians have offered to pay my husband's expenses if he will go to Australia and straighten out this matter with the Board, but he will not go, of course, as he cannot possibly be spared from the work in Seoul. He believes that the root of the difficulties lay in a faulty organization of the Mission causing strained and difficult relations between the agents of the Woman's Board and the agents of the General Board and that if that were remedied all would go on well. He thinks that both the ladies and Mr. Adamson are needed there.

But I have several things as well as this of which I should like to talk with you - so, hoping ere long to have the opportunity - I am dear Dr. Ellinwood,

Yours very affectionately and respectfully,

Lillie Underwood

(Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, PCUSA Board of Foreign Missions, Korea Correspondence, microfilm reel #178, Vol. 6, letter #81)

Pyongyang, Korea

March 14, 1897

N.C. Whittemore

Excerpts from a letter to Samuel A. Moffett [on furlough in USA] from Norman C. Whittemore, who reached Korea in October, 1896 and was appointed to Pyeng Yang Station:

The women worshiped today for the first time in their new building, crowding it to the doors, probably 250 being present. The men's building was filled with men and boys and crowds were at all the windows and doors. At the Sabbath School in the city there were 160 this morning and at the school outside the wall, 125. So you see the interest is not flagging any. If possible do get us the money for a church seating 1500 people. This last week I made a trip down the river to Kai Kol and to Rong Sun. This latter place I believe you have visited. At the first place the interest is of only a few months growth, but a very good number gathered and desired to be baptized. So it is everywhere now. One has but to stop for a few hours in a place and before long there is a congregation. This was the case at Chang Keri where our helpers were detained for a few days on our return from Whang Hai province when Mr. Lee and I came up on our wheels [bicycles]. The whole work is being wonderfully blessed and the Holy Spirit is using the efforts of the Korean Christians for the conversion of hundreds.

Thomasville, Ga.

March 20, 1897

Samuel A. Moffett

Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

I have been seeking a little rest & recuperation here and find that I am in great need of it. After fulfilling the engagements for April and the first part of May which I have already made I shall set myself to real recuperation feeling that that is my first duty - in justice to the great need of the work in Korea.

Your last letter speaking of the possibility of sending only one lady worker to Pyeng Yang was a great and deeply disappointing surprise. I do not think the Board will act at all wisely to place but one unmarried lady there to live alone. It is to my mind the poorest kind of policy - altogether aside from the great need of the work.

We asked for two - primarily because the work demands two - but secondarily from a conviction that unmarried people whether ladies or gentlemen should be sent two by two.

The unanimous opinion of the station was that we should ask the Board for two or none and I feel very deeply the conviction that the best interest of the work, the health of the ladies themselves, their happiness & usefulness will be greatly enhanced by being sent in couples. Of course there is no strong objection to be made to Miss Best's being sent in advance of the other lady to be there alone for a few months and I should not advocate her delay until the other lady is appointed but I think she should go with the understanding that another lady is to follow just as soon as found.

With regard to the prince who is expected with Mr. Gale - my understanding is that Mr. Loomis is looking to you & Mr. Gale to select a school for him near New York and that arrangements be made for him to live in a private family in the vicinity of the school. I suppose the responsibility will be largely upon Mr. Gale acting under Mr. Loomis' advice, as the King placed his son under Mr. Loomis' direction.

I shall leave here next week for my home in Indiana and thence to New York the last of this month. Then I shall see you again in the Board Rooms.

With kindest regards,

Very sincerely,

Samuel A. Moffett



Seoul, Korea

April 16, 1897

Horace Grant Underwood

Extracts from Dr. Underwood letter:

I have not been at all well lately. While writing this letter so far I have had to stop three times and walk about out-doors to keep from vomiting. Dr. Avison says I must take a run away. I do not get rest in Korea, so that on this trip [to Japan] I can do several things. I can get needed rest, see about things for the new newspaper and at the same time do His Majesty a favor and perhaps succeed in getting the prince under influences that may change the whole course of mission work in Korea. The young prince, although not all that could be wanted, seems from his birth bound to hold a high place in Korea and if he can come back here with his views favorable to Christianity, and if possible, a real Christian, it will make a great difference to the work in this land. Now just at the same time, the Doctor thinks I ought to take a trip somewhere, I am feeling that some effort ought to be made to put the prince in a good place under good influences, the King asks me to go over and of course pays my expenses.

Chemulpo, Korea

April 23, 1897

I had to leave off there and now while waiting for my steamer am going to try to finish this letter. The last few days have been full of work and now when the work is over I realize how much I do really need a change of some sort. It is no good for me to try and rest in Korea. This is altogether impossible here and I hope I can get some rest in Japan. I saw his Majesty just before I left Seoul and he was very kind and considerate and thanked me for taking this trip over. He is much concerned about his son and very desirous that he should be gotten to America. I shall, if he is willing to go, ship him right through to Dr. Ellinwood or Dr. Brown. His Majesty will make arrangements for him to have a regular monthly allowance that will be enough for him to get along on and desires him to have a good education.

My country work has been steadily increasing. In Hoksan, away up in the northern part of this Station's territory, the work still prospers well. I made a flying trip there in February and saw a large number of people; examined some fifty odd and baptized some 20. At Haing Ju two whole villages have practically overthrown their heathenism and between 2 and 300 await baptism. In Moun San Hwa (near Seoul) there is a weekly gathering of quite a number. At all these places the natives are now building churches at their own expense. At Chang Yan and Moun Hwa the work goes forward with more than usual success and there, too, church buildings are in the wind. When it is remembered that all this is voluntary work on the part of the natives it is cause for much thanksgiving. At Chang Yan to the south and Yei Yu to the east my work stretches out.

[Undated, but probably late April or early May, 1897]

I have seen the prince and he has made all arrangements. He comes down to take dinner at Mr. Loomis' [representative of the American Bible Society in Yokohama] tonight and goes aboard the steamer tomorrow direct from Mr. Loomis' house. The plan is for him not to say a word to a soul about it, to come down to supper at Mr. Loomis', to spend the night there and to go on board direct from there. I have purchased his things for the journey and they will go on board with Dr. Green's things (Dr. Green goes on this steamer). A Mr. Pak is here who will accompany him to New York. I have purchased a draft for them and as a blind to the bank had it made out to your order. Please collect it and pay it to Mr. Yog K. Pak on application. I enclose herewith 2<sup>nd</sup> (see note) of Exchange direct to you and have given 1<sup>st</sup> of Exchange to Mr. Pak in his letter of introduction to you. Tickets have been purchased but no one knows for whom

except the head agent here. I shall meet the prince after dark at Mr. Loomis' house and will meet him on board the steamer tomorrow. I am also prepared to pay all his debts. The King gave me about 12 thousand silver yen to do this work and it will take most of it. I will give him tickets, money, letters of introduction, etc. on the steamer and if any hitch should be made on the steamer about his debts, I shall be ready, check book in hand, to pay all bona fide claims. After he has gone I shall pay all minor debts. Since I arrived [in Yokohama] I have, I find, been followed by detectives, but they have, I think, been thrown off the scent. Mr. Pak has been followed from Korea all the way here by two detectives, but he has moved to a foreign hotel and is safe from them now.

I think we have planned well, but as the poet has it:

“The best laid plans of mice and men  
“Are apt to go awry.”

Tomorrow will show and if we fail we will try again. I do not see how it can fail unless the prince lets out what he desires and intends and then threats of personal violence may deter him.

Now I must close. Lillie has been much worse since we have been here and we will take her up to the mineral springs, about 8 hours train ride from here. A young Englishman who has been in Japan for some years and suffered terribly from Rheumatism has of late made himself well by the drinking of a German mineral water called *Kaiser Brunnen* and he also finds that if he leaves off he gets worse. He has sent Lillie a dozen bottles and if she is benefitted we shall buy a case and use it.

I have been a little better lately, but feel tired with so little work. I have not rested much yet.

Horace G. Underwood

Pyeng Yang, Korea

April 22, 1897

Graham Lee

Excerpt of a letter to Samuel A. Moffett [while he was on furlough in America]:

I went down into Whang Hai province to make a trip but visited only Tai Tong where I married Chang's brother to the daughter of Choi. Will have to go back there as soon as I can as the work is growing just as fast as ever and there are a number of new places that I have never visited.

Baird and Whittemore are in the North and from word they send have found the work in fine shape up at the [gold] mines.



Mendota, Illinois

April 26, 1897

Daniel Lyman Gifford

Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

I just returned Friday from the spring meeting of the Ottawa [?] Presbytery. Foreign Missions, in my person, received very generous treatment. At their request I gave on different occasions three addresses, was elected moderator of Presbytery and was given the opportunity to go as their Commissioner to General Assembly (which honor I waived on account of having papers given me in Korea).

I write to say go slow in sending out the lady nurse whom I understand there is thought of sending to take Miss Jacobson's place. I learn that steps are being taken out in Korea to employ as hospital nurse Mr. A.A. Pieters, the Russian Jew, formerly a colporteur under the American Bible Society. In order to avoid complications, my advice is for you to write to Korea asking a definite statement of their wishes about a lady doctor or a nurse to fill Miss Jacobson's place in Dr. Avison's hospital.

I want to ask your advice. Is it essential that I go to General Assembly this year? (1<sup>st</sup>) It will be a tax on my strength. (2<sup>nd</sup>) Korea is sure to be represented, as Mr. Moffett and Miss Doty both write me they expect to be there and next year when they are gone I could take my turn in speaking for Korea. (3<sup>rd</sup>) I have begun my book writing (at present in a leisurely manner). I need all my time between now and fall for that work. Still, if you feel strongly that I ought to go, I will do so.

Has there been a reprint of my pamphlet on work in Korea by Dr. Brown or Mr. Grant? How many new workers will the Board send to Korea this year and who are they?

Yours most cordially,

D.L. Gifford

[The book he was writing was published in 1898 by Fleming H. Revell Company with the title *Everyday Life in Korea*]

Excerpt of a letter to Samuel A. Moffett:

I returned day before yesterday from a 13 days trip to the mines 100 miles from here where I went with a Mr. Hunt (the superintendent representing the American syndicate). We camped out on the way up spending three nights on the road. I rode my wheel [bicycle] while Mr. Hunt was in his 8-coolie chair. I conducted two services on the Sabbath. I was there with the several Christian carpenters from Pyeng Yang who are working there and the first thing I want to do is to mention with very great pleasure the firm stand they take and the steady observance of Sabbath they show in the face of the Americans there who in their hurry to get the Mill up make no distinction between the Lord's day and any other. The example alone of our Koreans works like powerful oratory for the cause and it is a matter of rejoicing. In my clinic I saw 25 patients yesterday. I have 15 patients and find it utterly impossible to see all in the afternoon, and am compelled to see the new patients in the morning and also to do the especially important surgical work then, having had a total of 70 patients today.

My return from the Mines was made in a little over a day arriving here at 10 a.m. on the second day, having ridden the last 15 miles over the worst part of the road on a blanket [thrown over my horse], as I broke my saddle. I wound the blanket around the iron seat bar and so on that very uncomfortable seat came sailing in. The fiscal year has just closed and in making up my reports I find that in the less than two years [which] I have been in Korea I have seen 11,400 patients.

The Sabbath School in the city which my wife and I have charge of now meets in the morning, the attendance this Sabbath being 230. At the church services both the women's and the men's buildings were full. Something will have to be done about these audiences. We need the large church urgently.

Yokohama, Japan

May 1[?], 1897

H.G. Underwood

Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

This will introduce to you H.R.H. [His Royal Highness] Prince Eui Wha who is, as you know, desirous of finishing his education in the States. It was His Majesty's desire that the Prince should spend a few years in some small town or city preparing for college, should then enter and take a regular course at some city college such as the University of the City of New York, and after his graduation should if he so desires, spend a year or so at some special studies at West Point.

Trusting that you will be able to assist the Prince and that this will not involve too much work for you -

Yours sincerely,

H.G. Underwood



Pyeng Yang, Korea

May 6th '97

Graham Lee

Dear Mr. Dulles:

We have some balances left and the Station have instructed me to ask permission to apply them to a deficit we have in the medical fund.

I can't give the exact figure yet for our accounts are not all in, but we have about the following:

Evangelistic native helpers	\$100.00}	
Sarangs [사랑]	20.00}	silver
House repair	50.00}	

Wells has a deficit of \$225.00 silver which has been paid out of private funds. We had to use the money (private funds) or shut down on taking inpatients. Now if the Board will let us use these balances in this way it will help us a great deal for in a fast growing work like ours there are many times when we have to use here and there a little money for work for which the Board does not appropriate funds and this money has to come out of what is left of our salaries after our living expenses are paid.

It is our principle in this Station to use as little money as possible in the carrying on of our work and we never ask for anything except what we think is really necessary.

Mr. Whittemore and Mr. Baird returned from a trip to Eui Ju last evening and they bring glowing reports of how the work has spread. Mr. Baird baptized (20) twenty out of 74 examined and received 31 catechumens. In that district there are now nine places where people meet every Sabbath for worship.

Remember this work has not been visited for three years and has had to look after itself.

Truly it is wonderful the way the Spirit is working among these Koreans. We all rejoice here and I know you will rejoice with us.

Sincerely yours ,

Graham Lee

Excerpt of a letter to Samuel A. Moffett: [while Moffett was on furlough in U.S.A.]

I am just back from a trip to Eui Ju (North Korea) which I enjoyed very much. I went with Whittemore on this Northern Circuit. You know how long it has needed attention. I think you would have been pleased with the work that Yang has been doing. We visited Sai Chang where there was quite a company; believers from Koo Sung, Kang Kyei, Chang Sung and Sam Chun coming there. Two old men past 80 years of age and one young man were baptized. In Sak Ju there was an interest - - so far as I could see there is a genuine work there. Six men were baptized and six women. In Yung Chin there are a number who meet together to keep the Sabbath and two of these were baptized. In Eui Ju you know the work is in rather bad shape, better Whittemore thought than he expected to find it. One man was baptized there and Mr. Yi was put in complete charge of the property. (This field had not been visited by a missionary for four years.)

A work has sprung up in Soon Chun and one man was baptized. On the trip we heard of ten places where there are regular assemblies for worship on the Sabbath -- also others of which we do not have as definite information. We examined 74 persons, received 31 as Catechumens and baptized 20. There could have been better work done had we time to stay longer. The whole work in the North so far as I saw it seems unusually encouraging, but it ought to be worked now. Eui Ju should have a Training Class this Autumn or next spring.

[letter sent to the journal, *Woman's Work for Woman*]

I have just returned from a trip into the north to assist the Pyeng Yang station, in accordance with the appointment of the last annual meeting. Mr. Whittemore will write you more particularly about the work. The region visited was the Euijoo circuit, which has not been visited since the war between Japan and China. Our Korean helper, Mr. Yang, has been making regular visits to these fields. He has been doing good work. The whole region seems to be in a hopeful condition, and to give much promise if carefully worked. Everywhere I went I could not but feel that I was among a people prepared of the Lord. Their attitude toward foreigners, their social conditions, their tendency to listen to the truth, would all make one think that they were a different race [from the people with whom he had been working].

Without entering into details, I can say that on the whole trip we visited five places where believers meet together for worship every Sabbath, and that we heard of five other places where they meet regularly for worship. Other places were reported where there was a growing interest. Seventy-four men and women were examined, thirty-one were received as catechumens, twenty were baptized. This probably represents an interested constituency of two or three hundred. The work in Sakjoo is the most promising of any. In this place, where Mr. Moffett once thought he was in danger of being stoned, six men and six women were baptized. One man, who lived at a distance, after spending Saturday in hard labor in his fields, traveled most of Saturday night to be able to spend all of the Sabbath at the meeting, and then returned to his home after the evening service. Similar cases of interest might be mentioned.

I have not seen any place in Korea where the people seem so attentive to hear as in the north. Many of the hindrances to the work which exist in other places do not seem to be found there. The whole north seems to stand much in need of work being done just now, without the delay involved in learning the language by a new missionary. I was much pleased with what I saw of the northern work - earnest, aggressive, Scriptural, sensible, seemed to be words applicable to the church work there. The people are mostly able to read, and very eager to read the Bible. The work has now reached a stage where they especially need three things. To my mind these are in their order of importance - First: The Bible in the Korean language. Second: Careful instruction of their helpers, teachers and leaders, in order that they may properly train the Church to know God and his word. Third: An aggressive evangelism into the regions beyond, many of which are already calling for teachers.



Pyeng Yang, Korea

May 16, 1897

N.C. Whittemore

Dear Dr. Ellinwood,

I returned about ten days ago from a month's trip among the northern churches in company with Mr. Baird. The oversight of these churches was assigned to me by the last meeting of the mission, but the reports that came to us during the winter showed us clearly that the situation deserved the attention of a fully equipped worker, so Mr. Baird was finally induced to make the long (nearly two weeks) trip overland from Seoul. The section of country visited lies to the northwest of Pyeng Yang, about 150 to 200 miles distant, and mainly up amongst the mountains, which made traveling decidedly hard, especially for a wheel. The churches had not been visited since the war, Mr. Moffett's last visit being three or four years ago, I believe. We therefore expected to find the work in rather poor condition, but we were very decidedly disappointed in that .....opinion, and found that the native preacher, Yang, who devotes all his time to visiting the churches, has been doing very faithful work. As a result the Holy Spirit has blessed his efforts, and the number of believers has increased greatly. There are at present eight congregations which gather for worship every Sunday, besides a few small groups who study more or less regularly, dependent on the presence of their leaders. One of the congregations is a long way to the north, and was not visited, being up in another remote county, but is interesting as being the result of simply one Christian's removal to that field.

The reports in January as to the state of affairs in the Eui Ju Church itself, were bad, but we found things much improved, and one of the principal disturbers of the peace, apparently a changed man, and trying to live a right life. You may possibly recall him. He was formerly Mr. Moffett's helper, but had to be removed, owing to his bad ways. During our visit he made a full public confession of his guilt and apparently desires to live as the Lord would have him.

Another interesting and encouraging case. We spent one Sunday at Sak Ju, a walled county seat amongst the mountains, the same town from which Mr. Moffett was driven out a few years ago. The believers were scattered over quite a large stretch of country, and many of them came for long distances to be baptized. One man especially interested us. He was a busy farmer living 20 miles away over the mountains. As it was right in the midst of the planting season he couldn't leave until his work was done on Saturday, so he started then, walking most of the night, in order to be on hand for all the services. Then in the evening after he had been baptized he started back home again, so that he should be on hand to do his work as usual Monday morning. Such cases as these certainly show that the Holy Spirit has entered the hearts of these people. But I must stop.

We heard indirectly last week of the probable appointment of Mr. Hunt of

Princeton Seminary. We hope to hear more shortly.

Yours very sincerely,

N. C. Whittemore

P.S.

Your two good letters of February 17th and 20th were both received and greatly appreciated. In both cases I notice that your secretary addressed me at Pyeng Yang which caused the letters to be delayed quite a little. The Japanese postal system is far from perfect, and letters simply addressed Seoul reach us more promptly.

Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

The appropriations have just come and the cut has come with a vengeance. I don't know yet how we are going to meet it. Of course, if we stop all our work it would be an easy matter but how to keep on with all our work and meet such a cut as that is a financial problem that seems exceedingly hard of solution just at present. I feel sorry for the Board and Secretaries for I feel it must hurt you as much to make this cut, as it hurts us to meet it. We will do the best we can and when we come to the end of our rope we will have to stop, that's all. It looks as if the church was trying to go out of the Lord's business. Well, there is one thing for our church to think about and that is if she goes out of the Lord's business she is pretty sure to go into business for the devil. I don't know what the trouble may be but it looks as if Higher Criticism and the New Theology hadn't added a great increase of faith.

2. There is one appropriation I wish to speak about. You have granted us \$2250.00 silver for the ladies house here which includes \$500.00 of balance left from former house appropriations. The house is nearly completed but it can't be finished for \$2250.00 silver. I can't understand why you allowed us such a small amount. I have figured as closely as possible and I can't finish the house for \$2250.00 silver. Last fall I bought timber with personal funds and held it all winter when my money might have been in the bank drawing interest and I did it because I was able to get the timber at just about half the price I would have had to pay in the spring.

When we asked for this house appropriation we asked for \$1700.00 silver plus the balances left from Mr. Lee's and Mr. Moffett's house appropriations. The balances amount to \$1060.77 silver and these with \$1700.00 what we asked will give an ample amount. I don't think the house will cost fully \$2760.77 but I know it will cost more than \$2250.00. If the Board will allow us this \$2760.77 as we asked I will finish the house using just as little money as possible and return whatever is left. It costs more to build in Pyeng Yang than in any of our stations in Korea and the main reason is because we are not at a port. We have never used as much money in house building as other stations and I suppose it is because we are satisfied with purely Korean houses adapted to our needs. The price of some building material is higher than it was last year, tiles for instance, and this of course has made the house cost more.

You may think it strange that the house was half done before we received the appropriation. I used my own money and some of Mr. Moffett's I had and went ahead willing to take the risk and knowing that Moffett would back me up. If I had waited until now before beginning, the rainy season would have caught us before we could get the roof on and then we would have been in a nice mess. As it is, the house will be ready by the first week in July. Time is very precious with us this year. I have tried to work to the best advantage so as to save every day possible.

I hope the Board will allow us to use these balances. It doesn't mean one cent more extra appropriation but simply privilege to use balances that had not been counted on.

I hope I have made the case clear. Let me state it again.

1st We asked for \$1700.00 silver plus unexpended balances left from Messrs. Moffett & Lee's house appropriations.

2nd You granted us \$2250.00 silver estimating that we had \$500.00 silver as balances



which would mean \$1750.00 silver as new appropriations.

3rd The balances left from Messrs. Moffett's and Lee's houses are \$1060.77 silver.

4th We ask that the appropriation be granted just as asked, i.e., 1700.00 silver plus 1060.77 silver making 2760.77 silver.

5th This means not one cent of extra appropriations, but rather \$50.00 less of new appropriations and permission to use all the balances if they are needed.

Last fall when we asked for the appropriation we could not give the exact amount of balances because the houses were not quite finished.

The stations have appointed me to make this request and I sincerely hope you will use all your influence to have it granted.

Our work still grows just the same as ever - It is impossible to build a house and at the same time look after a country work large enough to fully employ five men and I don't pretend that I can do the work but I will do all I can and no man can do more. It would be interesting to you to see sometime how some of our country people come up almost determined to take me out to visit them by force. It is hard to refuse, too. I go all I can but the house keeps me from taking long trips.

Sincerely yours,

Graham Lee

Madison, Indiana

June 21, 1897

Samuel A. Moffett

Rev. F.F. Ellinwood, D.D.

156 Fifth Avenue, New York City

My Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

Your letter concerning Prince Eui Wha has just been received and I am glad he has finally managed to get away from the Japanese and the evil influences with which he was surrounded there. I hope the move to America may prove to be the very best for him and for Korea and I should be glad were I so situated as to in any way help to make it so.

It will not be possible for me to go East at this time and as we have left our town home for the hill-top cottage we are not so situated that we could entertain the Prince here.

This week marks the beginning of my real vacation and I am hoping to regain not only my usual health but also to lay in a supply of strength and vitality which will serve me during another six or eight years in Korea.

Mr. Gale is not very far from New York - somewhere in New England and may be able to render the Prince some service. Mr. Gale saw a great deal of him in Yokohama and they became good friends there. He has also the large part of his furlough ahead of him and will be able to spend a good part of it among friends even should he now give a short time to the Prince & his interests. I think Mr. Gale has some expectation of attending the Northfield Conference and if the Prince could & would accompany him there he would see a phase of life which might greatly contribute to his good.

Trusting that the way may open for such a disposition of the responsibility and opportunity as will be satisfactory to all and profitable to the Prince.

Very Sincerely Yours,

Samuel A. Moffett

P.S. Will you kindly see that the enclosed note of greeting is sent to the Prince.  
S.A.M.

Madison, Indiana

July 20, 1897

Samuel A. Moffett

Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

Your letter of the 14th asking about appropriations for the house of single ladies at Pyeng Yang reached me yesterday evening. My recollection of our request is that we asked for \$1,750 silver with which to supplement the unexpended balance from the building of my house and Mr. Lee's - the amount of this balance at that time being uncertain but by us estimated at probably \$300.00 from one and \$200.00 from the other house.

I judge that on May 1st when Mr. Lee made up the final account of the two houses he found a larger balance than we had expected and that it amounted to the sum mentioned in his letter, viz., \$1,070.00 silver.

I do not exactly understand your question, "Can you tell us where this money has lain? Was it money that Mr. Lee had on hand either in his private possession or in a bank, or was it simply construction money in the adjustment account of this Board?" but the following may be an answer to the questions.

The amounts for my house and his house were in the bank and were drawn as fast as needed. The appropriation of the unexpended balance having been asked for the building of the Ladies' residence, this balance I judge was used in the purchase of timbers and building material during the winter and spring preparatory to the erection of the building this summer - it being necessary if the building was to be erected this summer that the timbers & material should be gotten out in the spring and I judge that this balance of \$1,070 has been in these materials.

It is not at all unlikely that Mr. Lee has found building material higher in price than it was a year ago when he made our estimates or it may be that the large fire in Pyeng Yang in which 60 or more business houses were burned and which has necessitated a great deal of re-building has not only raised the price of materials but also that of skilled labor so that he has found it impossible to build as planned without adding to our original estimate. I trust that the above will be an explanation of the points covered in your letter, but if not please let me know and I shall be glad to answer other questions. I hope Mr. Lee's request may be granted for I have every confidence in his ability as a practical house builder and I am sure that it will be a saving in the end to put sufficient into the building now - so as to avoid extensive expenditures on it in the future.

Thank you for your expression of interest in my "rest". This month is giving me a very large addition to my strength and I begin to feel very much more as I did some years ago.

With kindest regards,

Very Sincerely Yours,

Samuel A. Moffett



Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

Your note enclosing letter from Dr. Wells and asking my opinion about his views on retrenchment reached me yesterday evening. Dr. Wells writes "The reduced appropriations mean advancement for it compels us to put our work more and more on the self-supporting basis, and every inch gained that way means strength."

I made very nearly the same remark in the Board Rooms in April when you told me of the very great reduction this year although I qualified it by saying that in many particular cases the enforced reduction would cut off some prosperous work and would prevent the inauguration of some very promising new work.

Periodically, I think, a reduction in the appropriations works a great benefit to the work for the reason that it necessitates a re-adjustment of the work so that abuses which have crept in are remedied, unprofitable features of the work are abandoned, a new appeal to the native church leads to greater efforts at self-support and the whole work is adjusted to a more economical use of funds. However, while I think that this reduction will in the end inure [lead] to the advantage of the work, I am quite sure that the work would be very seriously injured by such a large reduction were it not that the most pressing work will be provided for either by special funds or by the missionaries themselves who will draw the funds from their own pockets rather than see some of their most promising work shut off because of lack of funds which neither the Board nor the native church can supply.

Dr. Wells wrote his letter immediately after the Pyeng Yang Station had held their meeting at which they provided for an adjustment of their work in view of the cut of \$2288.62 (yen, I suppose) which fell to that station.

The fact that they were able to provide for the continuation of the work and to lead the native church to enlarged measure of self-support and that the work is not to be seriously crippled notwithstanding the very large cut, caused the doctor to give way to a feeling of jubilation (he is always either altogether jubilant or altogether depressed) and to write with but the one idea in his mind that after all, the reduction would lead to greater advance along the lines of self support. I know however that the work would be seriously injured was there the necessity of cutting of the entire \$2288.62 from the work as planned.

Mr. Whittemore's letter to me speaks of the advantage gained by the appeal to the native church to undertake more in the way of self support and says the work will go on just the same although we ourselves may come out at the end of the year with a small bank balance.

I have felt more concerned over the inability of the Board to send re-enforcements of men & women where they are so greatly needed and to provide houses for them than I have over the inability to provide funds for the native work. We are commissioned to take the gospel to these heathen nations but I do not see that our commission is to provide the funds for the support of the native church except in the way of assistance to them in efforts to attain self support. I am afraid that too often large appropriations for native work has developed a spirit of dependence rather than independence which should be striven for. I have had letters from Mr. Whittemore and Mr. Baird concerning the work at Eui Ju and the north which has for so long gone without a personal visit from a missionary. I have been greatly cheered and gratified by the reports which show even a better

condition than I had anticipated although I was sure genuine work was being done there.

Doubtless you have learned that Mr. Baird does not feel it right for him to stay in the school work since the Board cannot provide for its enlargement as planned and that there is some talk of his being transferred to the Pyeng Yang work. His letters to me show that he was very greatly impressed with the genuineness of the native Christians in the north and with the great opportunity which is now offered for aggressive work there. I can only hope that the Mission may see its way clear to transferring him to Pyeng Yang that Mr. Lee may be relieved before he breaks down and that Mr. Baird may make his work from now until his furlough two years hence tell where it will do immense good and where there is enough work ready to hand for all three of us.

Concerning the school you suggested to Mr. Miller the possibility of its removal to Pyeng Yang, but that will not commend itself at all to either Mr. Miller, the Seoul Station nor do I think the rest of the Mission. Personally I think the Seoul school should be developed and established as a strong school and that at the same time our plan for a school or academy (not a College or University) in Pyeng Yang should also be carried out. Should the Mission transfer Mr. Baird to Pyeng Yang he & Lee and I would find ourselves in hearty agreement. And I think our work along all lines would develop most advantageously.

I understand the Mission Meeting will likely be held in September at which time Mr. Speer will be in Korea. I am sure his visit will do them all great good and I very much hope he will get a far insight into all our work so as to give you in the Board Rooms such an account of conditions as we cannot do.

With kindest regards and praying that the summer may give you opportunity for rest sufficient to enable you to enter upon the fall work in good health.

Very sincerely yours,

Samuel A. Moffett

Letters from Mr. Foote & Dr. Grierson of Canada intimate that they will go to Korea in the Spring to take up Mr. McKenzie's work.

Pyongyang, Korea

August 14, 1897

J. Hunter Wells

Dr. F.F. Ellinwood

Dear Doctor:

I am writing you just a few lines to tell you and Dr. Brown and others interested of the great pleasure and satisfaction we have just had over the visit from Mr. Speer and Mr. Grant. They spent a week here and saw us and the Korean Christians normally. There were too many interesting and touching incidents to mention, but our Communion service last Sunday in which 19 were received as catechumens and 29 baptized was the most tender and touching service we have had. Mr. Speer prayed in English and altogether their visit was one of great benefit, not only to us individually but to us - Koreans and all, collectively.

A few figures from our general report which you'll receive later will show you that the native churches here under this station's oversight have increased from 22 last year to more than 65 this. Over 1300 new catechumens were received, making the total number of professing Christians here over 2500. You will, I think, hear correspondingly good reports from all over Korea, though it must be admitted that we ought to have skilled help here, and surely this Annual Meeting, which I cannot attend, will send us Mr. and Mrs. Baird, for they want to come.

In the hospital, for the past 9 months, I have seen, with visits outside, over 7000 patients.

I will write again when I hear of the doings in Annual Meeting. With best regards to Dr. and Mrs. Brown.

Most Sincerely,

J. Hunter Wells



Dear Dr. Ellinwood,

I have some time ago taken over charge of this Legation and want to renew my thanks to you for what you did for me.

My lines have not fallen in pleasant places, for this is not the sinecure it has been. I want to tell you in strict confidence, that things seem to have pretty well gone over to Russia, the Korean Ambassador to the Coronation of the Czar, with the apparent sanction of the King, gave such documents to the Russian Government, that they now have the practical control of things here, and while this would not have hurt us much while Mr. Waerber remained as [Russian] Minister, the new Minister, de Speyer, is quite a different man, and is open in his denunciation of American influence in Korea, and of American missionaries especially. He says that he will not tolerate in the government any of the pro-American officials, most of whom have been dismissed since he came, and he claims to have been the cause through our Minister Dun, while in Japan, of the anti-missionary circular issued by our government, a copy of which I enclose. It is certainly right that our people should not interfere in politics and as a rule they do not do so. The anti-missionary sentiment seems to be due almost entirely to the unfortunate utterances of Mrs. Underwood in the Press at the time that her husband was going to the Palace as interpreter for the Russian and American Ministers.

To make matters worse, a few days after this Mr. de Speyer's arrival, Dr. Vinton got into a very unfortunate squabble with him because his [de Speyer's] coolies were building a dividing wall on the Sabbath. I might have arranged it, though as Vinton was not paying for or connected with the work, it was none of his concern, but he forcibly drove away the workmen and locked up their tools, which I had difficulty in getting him to give up. This needs no action from you now, but it shows how hard it is for me. I prefer that you should not mention any of these things. Most of our people are a very fine set of men but we have a few cranks.

I don't think that the Russians can or will interfere with legitimate mission work, at least at present, but the French are in such perfect accord with them that you will probably hear from that quarter.

I am not expected to write to anyone upon matters relating to the Government, but I know how anxious you are to hear something definite as to how matters stand, and I take the risk of giving you this little insight, trusting that you will respect my confidence.

I met and liked very much, Mr. Speer, [Robert E. Speer] who was here for a few days this summer, and gave us a little taste of things as they are at home.

Please give my regards to Mrs. Ellinwood and your daughters, Mr. Speer and the others, and accept much for yourself.

Yours sincerely,

H.N. Allen

S.S. Belgie (White Star Line)

Nov. 17, 1897

Mary Alice Fish

My dear, dear Cousin Emma,

How my heart goes out to you today and many, many times a day and I long to look into your eyes and have a long talk. My letter to you was not begun when we touched at Honolulu. I tried to send back a short message by the pilot boat, but the pilot slipped away a little before the time. Today we are actually nearing Yokohama where word can be sent back to the homeland. I can scarcely realize that the main part of the voyage is so nearly over.

But there is so much to tell you, dear, that I must go back to the little home before the time of sailing. I think when I last wrote you, Nellie had just fully decided that she would come with me. About \$50 was spent on her outfit, many of the things had been sent with my freight and her passage was engaged. But Will Brown had been influencing her for some time to give up the trip, and on Sunday (17th) she surprised us all by announcing she had decided to remain at home and be married in about a month. When she returned from So. Calif. She told me of her own accord that she did not care to see Will - did not love him nor intend to marry him. I felt when a girl could say that, she ought at least to wait. I went to Will, with Nellie's knowledge; told him we were all opposed simply to the time of Nellie's marriage & asked him to leave her free to wait a year then come back to be married if she wished. But he saw that he had the control over Nellie & that she cared nothing for our wishes in the matter and seeing his advantage, kept it. The days that followed were miserable ones. Nellie was very angry with us because we had opposed her, and there was a cloud over us all, through which we could see no light. Only one thing was clear to me. I had a duty toward Mother & Nellie treated her so badly that I could not go and leave them together. I knew Nellie's promise to be married two weeks after I left could not be relied upon and besides the strain and demands upon Mother might exhaust her completely. I told Nellie she must either hold to her decision to go with me or be married before I left. She chose the latter. This was Wed. Morning (20th). I was just leaving for the city and in the afternoon Mother was to go to Dr. Burke's at Altruria for she was feeling very badly. It was decided Nellie should go up with Mother to wait on her. The child had settled down into a sullen mood and, though far from pleasant company for Mother, could do the necessary things for her comfort. So I was to prepare for the wedding at home. For the last three weeks nearly every moment of my time was down on a program - there was but one day, Tues. 26th, which could possibly be made free, so I set the day for the wedding! and "the children" cheerfully acquiesced. On that Wed. morning I found myself with the last of my freight to be sent off next day, five services before leaving, purchasing to do for Nellie, a long list of last things, and - preparations for a wedding on hand! Mother sent the invitations from Altruria, Nellie had her dress made in Santa Rosa, Wong found a boy to help him and I put the wedding breakfast right into his hands, three of Nellie's friends came to decorate the house, and so - all was done. Mother and Nellie returned from Altruria Monday night, - Tues. noon the child was married, - by night all the decorations were down, Father, Mother and I were there alone, and it all seemed like a dream. It was really a very pretty wedding. The little parlor was cleared as much as possible and turned into a bower with ferns, smilax and yellow & white chrysanthemums. The bay window from floor to ceiling was a mass of ferns with a canopy of smilax beneath which Nellie & Will stood. The dining room was ferns & chrysanthemums & the



verandah was enclosed & decorated. Nellie looked very pretty in simple white silk & lace with white roses & maidenhair. About 21 were present, - relatives of both families. To an outsider all passed off well I suppose, - as her engagement had been known for some time, this haste only meant that we wanted the wedding before I left. Very few knew how sore & grieved were our hearts over our little girl. If she had come with me, no doubt the care would have been great and my own work much hindered, but it seemed to me the only right thing for her to do, and I did my best to bring it about for her sake. Poor little girl, I fear she little knew what she was doing. We tried our best to keep her longer but since she has chosen this way and has left us the relief on our part is very great. Our Father's guiding hand was very plain through it all.

Mother sent me off on Saturday morning without a tear. Dear little Mother was given great strength & courage. I feel sure I cannot fully realize how hard it is for them for they are absolutely alone now. I was given a beautiful farewell from the wharf. From 12 o'clock to 1 the people continued to come. Going at once to my stateroom I emptied my hand bag and before leaving had it full again of letters and treasure packages. I have had about fifty steamer letters. I do not know just how many people were at the wharf but after we left I remembered 45.

My stateroom was full of flowers and I stood on the deck with arms filled with magnificent roses, carnations & violets. All helped to make it a joyous time for me. Father had said he would not stay till the steamer left. Once as he passed me on the deck I caught him by the arm and said "I want to kiss you every time I have a chance." "Can't I have another?" He said, "Yes, indeed, when you come back." He passed on and - I didn't see him again. I know he did not intend to say goodbye and I did not want to either and yet I did long to, later.

God has given me a wonderful blessing in the great interest which was aroused in the churches of the Pres. & in many parts of the State, in my going. It was all so plainly of the Spirit's working that I could but wonder and be still. In my trip through Benecia I had nearly 1100 miles of travel after Sept. 10th and in all had 39 entire services aside from Bible classes - some of the services being in S.F. and Oakland. This has given a very close link with our people but has by no means accounted for the wide spread interest.

My college mates, Drs. Mary Ayer & Frances Cattell came on this steamer you know. It is so delightful to be with them. A Miss Williams of San Francisco, going to Shanghai under the Meth. Board, shares my stateroom, so we are four. Two gentlemen have joined themselves to our little party. Prof. Clay MacCauley, President of one of the Colleges in Tokyo is a man about 53 yrs. of age, a scientist, writer, lecturer and a Unitarian. He is very interesting and has devoted himself to us every day since we started, reading aloud and telling us many things that will help us to understand Orientalism and the Japanese in particular. Prof. said to me the other day, "I can understand better than many another the spirit in which you go to your work. I used to be a Presbyterian and strong in the faith of my youth - I longed at one time to go to China, but my Mother absolutely refused & instead I spent three years in the study of philosophy in Germany. I would give all I possess to believe what I did before that but I cannot. I rejoice that you stand where you do." Prof's wife died several years ago and he is absolutely alone. The story of his life was pathetic to me. The other member of our party is Mr. Sinclair Kennedy, a youth about



11/17 & 19/97 – p.3 M. Alice Fish

23, just from Harvard & taking a pleasure trip round the world. He is athletic, wholesome, a perfect gentleman, full of fun, and - a Swedenborgian! Are we not a mixture? Mr. Kennedy is just at the stage when he is fond of discussing religious topics; but it will do him no good. He has himself opened the way for a private talk with each one of us on religion and missions, - our motives in the work, etc. - and I believe the seed has lodged.

Our voyage thus far has been prosperous and for the most part very delightful. The weather has been varied, - as we expected in Nov. - nearly every day has brought a shower, but we have had only two days of continued rain. We all had our touch of seasickness but after the third day this was almost forgotten except by Dr. Cattell, who has suffered more than the rest.

The grand old Pacific has a depth of blue that I have been told can be approached only by the Indian Ocean. The weather grew very warm as we steamed toward the southern seas and is only beginning to grow cold as we round up toward Japan. With winds, showers & sunshine, beautiful cloud effects, gorgeous sunsets and moonlight nights, we have had as charming & varied a panorama as nature could give without a landscape. The first thing in the morning is a plunge in salt water, warmed just a little while we keep south, from the temperature of the ocean; breakfast at 8:30; then we four girls meet for prayers in the largest stateroom. Here we are joined by Miss Anderson, a Lutheran missionary bound for inland China. Then our party of six gathers on deck where we take turns reading aloud until time for exercise with sandbags, bowling, etc. before lunch. In the afternoons more reading or games and perhaps a nap, and in the long, moonlit evenings we have gathered way at the stern to sing. The rest for body and mind has been very grateful to me. My appetite and capacity for sleep are astonishing. At Honolulu we spent a beautiful day. The Drs. & I happened to have letters of introduction to the same person, Mrs. Judge Friar, who entertained us charmingly in her beautiful home until after lunch, when Dr. Burgess (a classmate of mine at Cooper) came with his mother to take us all driving till sailing time at 3 P.M. I shall not attempt to describe what we saw of the picturesque Island city. To us it was like a glimpse of fairyland - a dreamy, romantic charming spot - for a day or a week.

Friday, Nov. 19th.

Yesterday we were anchored in Yeddo Bay and at 5 this morning were again on our way. As I come back to letters after a long, happy day in Yokohama & Tokyo, my mind is so full of the sights & experiences that I feel I could spend hours in writing descriptions & then come far short of making it all seem real. We were very fortunate in having Prof. MacCauley to show us the sights which he knew so well. Taking a steam launch at 6:30 A.M. for shore we "the six" - went to the Grand Hotel for breakfast then spent the morning in some little individual errands and seeing the main part of Yokohama. Taking a train for Tokyo we reached there just before noon, walked through one of the main thoroughfares to the Imperial Hotel for lunch, then starting out with jinrickshas we spent the afternoon in a tour of about 15 miles through that great city, teeming with nearly two million people. The Prof. took us to his home where we were served with tea, then we visited temples, tombs, parks, Imperial grounds, bazaars, and all the points of interest he could possibly show us in so short a time. Returning by train to Yokohama we dined at the Hotel & at 9:30 "launched" out for the Belgic, scarcely even tired from our fifteen hours of

sightseeing.

This is but the skeleton of that day and no words of mine could possibly make it live with the Oriental life of this strange land. From this glimpse at the exterior I am ready to say, "Fair, fascinating Japan", and with the love for the people which I know I should have, I don't believe closer knowledge of them would overcome the first impression. Korea will I know be very, very different, - more degraded, filthy & repulsive, I expect - yet I am glad, so glad to go on, for it is Korea that has been given to me, and it is the one place where I want to be.

I had a thick package of steamer letters from you, Cousin Emma, - did you know it? They began coming last Aug. and as I have read them I have been again with you, to Fresno, the Sierras, the Valley, Santa Barbara and all the way home, and have refreshed my memory with details, which came to me the first time during very busy days. The little tea cloth was used at Nellie's wedding before being packed for Korea. I am so glad to have it from you, dear. Mrs. Kerr in San Rafael also gave me a beautiful centre-piece. I tried to imagine them on my pine board table! Both seemed to me too handsome for a missionary to own but - I was really glad somebody else didn't think so.

I found time before leaving for two lessons of an hour each on the wheel & did so want just a little more time. I learned to dismount at once so was not afraid of falling, and the second hour rode much of the time alone. Three times, when all was favorable I was able to mount alone. After seeing how the land lies in Korea I may send to Japan for a wheel. I wonder how you are, dear. Much better I hope during the cold weather. How I do wish you could be with Mother during the next vacation for both your sakes. I think and wonder so much about what the days bring to you. Our dear Father is the guide and I ask that He may show you His hand of love in every detail, and make the inner life so rich with His precious indwelling that rivers of living water may flow to bless others. I have read and enjoyed both the "Ministry of the Spirit" and "Shepherd Psalm", and I think both were sent with my freight so that I can review them for they both are worthy of being one's companions. Just now I am reading "The Spirit of Christ" by Andrew Murray; - a deeply devotional book. There is so much more that I want to write, dear, but this letter may be long delayed unless mailed in the morning at Kobe. Give my love to each of the dear family by name. Warmest love to Uncle James & Mabeth. And for you, dear, the love that goes out to you constantly & that will deepen and broaden as we both know more & more of the love that passeth knowledge.

A loving Goodnight from

Alice

(from the Samuel H. Moffett collection of Samuel Austin Moffett papers)



Washington D.C.

November 20, 1897

James S. Gale

My dear Dr. Ellinwood:

I have seen Prince Eui Wha daily since coming here, both at the Legation and in his own boarding house and he has returned my calls, seemingly glad to associate where he could make himself understood. He has made but little progress in English and yet I think he has done as well as could be expected under the straightened circumstances in which he has been living. There is something exceedingly humiliating about his life thus far in Washington. He gave Pak three hundred dollars and over to carry him back to Korea and has had twenty five for his own spending money for the last three months. He feels ashamed to call or to attempt to make friends under the circumstances.

Today Dr. Hamlin asked me to go with him to find what he was owing and a part of the debt was paid. Dr. Hamlin has written you about it. He was asked if he wished to study and he said "Certainly he did". He says he wishes to stay a few months in Washington, perhaps for the winter, till he can speak for himself and then he is desirous of going to any school that may seem best where he will hear no Korean. It seems to me this is reasonable enough. I asked if he would come to church with me tomorrow to Dr. Hamlin's and he said "Yes".

He shows no signs of dissipation though he could scarcely dissipate without money. The house he is at seems respectable enough. I think there is hope of surrounding the boy with the best influences as well as giving him a start in education even here. He has had no chance to come into contact with Christian people as yet.

I hope his government may give him a chance and keep him from being humiliated by making their requirements too exacting. After all, the best will be developed from him that is possible by leaving something to his honor. In this respect he does not differ from American boys.

I am glad to meet Dr. Hamlin. I am sure we shall enjoy him in Washington.

Very sincerely yours,

James S. Gale



Dear Father -

I want to begin with the story of the days where I left it last week so you will have a somewhat connected account. It was last Thursday, the 18<sup>th</sup> (so I think, - it is hard to keep track of the days myself) that we steamed away from Yokohama harbor. We left Professor McCauley and Mr. Kennedy there, so we four girls formed "the party" after that. By the way, I don't think I told you that we (the six) had been named "The Goonies," because like those birds we were fond of the moonlight, braved all weathers, and apparently did not know enough to go in when it rained. Friday after leaving Yokohama was rather cold and dismal. I think we were more tired than we realized after all the sight-seeing of the day before, so we were very quiet. Saturday morning at daylight we entered the harbor at Kobe. If I had not since come to Nagasaki, I should say Kobe must surely be the most beautiful port in Japan. The sunrise that morning was charming. It is no wonder to me that the Japanese are so artistic in their decorations and combinations of colors, which other people do not dare to place together, for nature instructs them here as she certainly does in few other places, if at all elsewhere. There are tints in cloud and sky, in sea and foliage such as we never see at home. Japan has an atmosphere that colors everything. I don't know what explains it. Kobe is on the western shore of the harbor, and on the eastern slope of a beautifully wooded range rising abruptly from the sea. That morning as the sun rose from behind the low shore line on the east, it brought to light the scores of little fishing boats weaving their way in and out among the vessels at anchor and making toward the open sea. Touching the tips of the mountain range, the rays crept down the slope, bringing out the autumn tints in the foliage and revealing one picturesque house after another that nestled among the trees on the hillside, until they (the rays) finally reached the water's edge and the whole town lay in the sunlight.

After an early breakfast we four went off in a launch, nerving ourselves to face Orientalism for the first time on our own responsibility. We had a plan for the day, but its carrying out was something we were still curious about. We went first to the shops in Kobe and spent an hour or two until we were afraid we would be financially ruined if we remained longer. About 10:40 a.m. we took the train for an hour's ride to Osaka, a large manufacturing place and the second city in size in the Empire. The ride lay through rice fields dotted with villages at the foot of the slopes of the hills. It is all like a miniature world filled with little people playing at living. And yet there is too much poverty and pain to make life play for the most of them. Osaka is the Manchester of Japan. On approach it presents a peculiar appearance with its scores of great brick chimneys rising so far above the one-story native houses. Many of the finest silk, porcelain and lacquer manufactures are there. Our train was crowded and at the station we found by the throngs of people and the soldiers on parade that it must be a holiday for one city at least.

How to make ourselves understood was the next problem. Out of the multitude of jinriksha men surrounding us we tried again and again to make one understand we wanted to go to the hotel, but failing with all, we boldly pushed our way through the throng and started to walk up one of the roads. Every foreigner is of course the centre of a crowd, but we were attracting so many people that it seemed as if very soon the whole city would know that we were stranded and lost. So we walked for awhile trying to appear as if we knew the entire country, but really not knowing what to do next. Of course the situation was not serious for we were four together and we could at least go back on the train - but we wanted to see Osaka. We stopped a few minutes to consult. A jinriksha man came toward us and to our great relief we found he could speak a little English. For the rest of the day Namamoto was our guide and we were personally conducted and cared for. After lunch at the hotel we went to the Government Bazaar (the Wanamaker's of Osaka), then what seemed to be the endless miles of the principal shop and business streets; down a theatre street where the theatres were doing a thriving business, the people were in gala dress, and one could scarcely see the sky for the clouds of flying banners overhead. Back to the station again we took the train and reached Kobe in time to visit the famous waterfall. Returning to the Belgic by dinner time we considered the day quite a success



(with the help of Namamoto.) That man must be a treasure to foreigners for he took the greatest interest in showing us the sights and did not attempt to overcharge, which is very unusual.

The next morning (Sabbath) we went on shore and attended service at the Kobe Union Church, which, as I understand, is in theory supported by different denominations and used by them, but which seemed to me in its service to be chiefly influenced by the Church of England. We made a long stay in Kobe because the Belgic had so much freight to land. But at daylight Monday morning we were off again and all that day were sailing through Japan's marvelous Inland Sea. If I have not been able to describe any of the choice bits of scenery we had before that, I certainly should not attempt to describe what is called the most beautiful shore scenery in the world. The weather could not have been more perfect except that the wind was a little cold. But we wrapped ourselves warmly and, taking our rugs way up into the peak of the bow, spent nearly the whole day there, looking from side to side and exclaiming over the beauties of islands, shores, mountains, sea, sky, forest and village. The passages are so intricate and the channel so narrow that we were obliged to anchor that night. The next morning we were up at daylight to see our passage through the beautiful Shimonoseki straits which close the inland sea on the west. About 5 a.m. Tuesday we entered Nagasaki harbor, and though it was raining we could not help being struck with this which is called the most beautiful harbor in the world.

The Belgic had to stay until 4 p.m. Wednesday to coal, and I stayed on board with the girls till the last moment, finally coming on shore in a sampan (rowboat), and finding myself on shore in Asia alone. After getting my baggage through the Custom House I took a room at the Central Hotel and then thought I would make an effort to find a missionary of some kind. On saying "mission" to my jinricksha man, he took me to the Roman Catholic church, but the priest kindly gave the man directions to take me to the Methodist Girl's School where Miss Russell is in charge. She told me of the Mission and Girl's School under the Dutch Reformed church, which of course is more nearly like our own, and I found the place but did not find Miss Lansing, the Superintendent. It was then dark and I returned to the hotel. It is run by Japanese but they have European food. The steward could understand English pretty well so I could make my wants known. There were one or two Russians about the place, but I was the only woman so far as I saw. The room was clean and I was perfectly comfortable that night, but beyond that I guess it would hardly be safe to describe my feelings. It is a strange sensation to hear constant jabbering on every side and have no one you can speak to. You feel the best thing to do is to keep your mouth closed, for you will accomplish nothing if you open it. Frances Cattell gave me a letter just before I left her, to be read that night, and it certainly was a great comfort to me. I opened my Bible to Isaiah 42, and the verses from 6 to 8 came home as they never had before. How precious are the personal words of the blessed Book. I went to bed early and lay there listening to the unfamiliar sounds in the street below - the cries of the venders, the calls of the runners, the plaintive whistle of the blind men. But all too constant were the shouts, songs and curses of the drunken sailors who to many of these people are representatives of England and America.

Next morning just as I finished breakfast, Miss Lansing came to say they would take me in up at the Girl's School while I have to stay here, and you don't know how glad I was to go. Mrs. Davis invited me with the rest of the missionaries to Thanksgiving dinner yesterday and I was invited out to another one with some of the Methodist ladies in the evening. Miss Lansing has taken me right up into her room and I am already quite at home. So here I am today in the dining room of the Girl's School of the Dutch Reformed church, way up on a hillside looking out over beautiful Nagasaki harbor and writing to you by the yard.

Alice



Chefoo, China

December 1, 1897

Mary Alice Fish

[as printed in a San Rafael or San Francisco newspaper]

Dear Father -

Well, to "resume and continue on", I left Nagasaki on Saturday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. On going down town from Miss Lansing's about 11 a.m. I found a Russian steamer had entered port and was leaving that afternoon for Chemulpo via Chefoo. I went out to her in a sampan to see the accommodations, and though the prospect was very poor the alternative was to wait till December 20 (!) for a Nippon Yusen Kaisha steamer - the regular Japan Mail. (I think I told you I missed the last steamer of the two weeks' system by about eighteen hours.) So I decided to brave the unpleasantness and come under the Russian flag. The voyage has proved more than all it promised to be. The "Bankabb" is quite small and mainly a freight boat running to Vladivostock. The staterooms, such as they are, are down stairs in the stern, directly over the propeller and shaft, and open into the dining room which the men use for smoking. (There are little holes for ventilators which cannot be closed.)

I am the only woman on board. The men are Russian, Japanese and Chinese. The captain and one passenger speak a little English. They are certainly Russian angels to me just now! The berths, very narrow and much too short, are of a thin hard mattress on cross boards. We have had a strong, cold head wind nearly all the way and a very choppy sea, and this little craft has pitched and tossed in all directions about three times to one good roll of the Belgic. I was never so seasick before - the Russian fare, with everything swimming in grease, has not troubled me. But one can scarcely be too sick to do anything if there is nobody else to do it. There is a boy who would wait on me but doesn't know a word of English and I am not versed in Russian, so I do without. I write notes as a last extremity for toast and hot water, and I suppose the captain interprets. What a blessing happiness does not depend on surrounding circumstances. All has been bright *within*. When I cannot read I am thankful I know so many texts and hymns and can always pray, and so I've had sweet days of communion with the Lord.

We have come northward close along the Korean coast and within a comparatively short distance of Chemulpo. I have laughingly begged the captain to drop me there, but he is ordered to Chefoo first, so we must go off across the sea and make the trip three or four days longer. The wind feels like that off Glacier Bay in Alaska, and I can face it only a little while each day. It will put us back too, and it makes us pitch so it seems to me that propeller must be nearly out of the water half the time. Wednesday morning we reached Chefoo and the passenger who speaks English and I went ashore in a sampan. He is Mr. Von Rendenfeld, who was for a year secretary to the Korean Ambassador and he has been very kind indeed to me. I wanted to call on Dr. and Mrs. Corbett in Chefoo, whom I met at 920 Sacramento street just before they sailed in August. So at the hotel I took a chair and two coolies for their home, a mile away. The chair was all of cane lashed between two bamboo poles about fourteen feet long, with cross pieces at the ends which rested on the coolies' shoulders. I took my seat and was "hoisted" and borne off at a solemn, measured tread.

At first I thought, "Dear me, this is slow work after the runners of Japan but when we entered the narrow winding city streets and began to meet the donkey trains I found the pace quite rapid enough. Every hundred yards or less, one of the men shifts to the other shoulder, and if they both happen to shift at once, you wish they wouldn't and hope they will never do so again, which they are sure to do. The sights and sounds and filth of those streets I'll not attempt to describe. It was only a bit of China and of course is far worse in the interior. After about 20 minutes the coolies set me down and took out their pipes for a smoke. I quickly had a crowd around me, but smiling into their faces brought them too close for comfort, as I had no means of escape, so I put all my attention upon a man who was apparently a carpenter, working nearby, and presently the coolies decided to go on. I spent about three hours at Dr. Corbett's and oh, that



visit was such a treat. Could I ever have learned the full meaning of fellowship, companionship if I had not come out here? Returning to the hotel I met my companion and we went to the ship in the Custom House boat. My coolies had about 20 cents apiece of our American money for their four hours service. We were doomed to disappointment and more waiting than there was cargo to take on and we did not start till morning. But patience is a lesson one must learn in the East, for nobody hurries here. All through Japan we reminded ourselves "There is no more hurry now." And Japan is comparatively very rapid. It is surprising how much people can bustle around without accomplishing anything.

This morning we start across the sea again, to reach Chemulpo. I'll not attempt to say when. In reality our speed is 5 miles an hour - the Captain said so. Well, such a time. Let's call it a funny time, because the word is so utterly inappropriate. However, at the latest, I hope to be in Seoul by Saturday night and then shall quickly forget all these details and remember only enough to advise others not to take a Russian steamer. I am glad every moment that I came to Korea and have never been otherwise, because the dear Lord has made the way so plain. I do believe He wants me here now, and His full will for the future is all my desire. How wonderful is his support and care, and how tender His love. And day by day through all the time that has seemed so silent because I could have no word from you, He has helped me to trust for you both, and to realize the instant blessings come to each other because of our punctual waiting upon Him, or even before we ask are the answers given.

Now I am going to close this letter and have it ready to send back from Chemulpo, for it will probably reach you sooner than the word I send from Seoul. Dear me, this is December 2<sup>nd</sup>. A rich and blessed New Year for you.

Alice

Mendota, Illinois

December 3, 1897

Daniel L. Gifford

Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

I know you like to keep posted on all important events in Korea, so I have asked my wife to copy for your benefit a couple of highly significant items which came in a recent copy of the *Seoul Independent*, the newspaper published by Dr. Jaisohn [서재필].

My book [*Every-Day Life in Korea*] is very nearly done. You can get an idea of its scope from this extract from the Preface.

The pages that follow may be characterized, in the main, as a series of pictures of the life in Korea: life in the olden time, as history has portrayed it: modern, every-day life, as the westerner living among the people sees it: life as it is affected by the work of the Christian missionary: and finally, the life of the missionary, himself.

With kind regards -

Yours sincerely,

D.L. Gifford

Seoul, Korea

December 7, 1897

Eva H. Field, M.D.

Rev. F.F. Ellinwood  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

No doubt you have heard of our safe arrival in Korea ere this but I want in a brief note to say to you personally how glad I am to be here at work and also how pleasantly I am situated.

I am not with Miss Shields as I had hoped, but that arrangement did not seem to be the best one - so Miss Shields is at present with Miss Strong and I with Miss Doty and we are both as happy as one could wish.

Dr. Fish reached us last Saturday and we were most delighted to see her. Shortly after I was in Winona I met Dr. Fish in Chicago and again for a few moments when she went through my home on her way West in July. She is a bright young woman and one whom I am sure will be greatly loved by the people among whom she works.

We are working hard at the language and I enjoy every minute of the study. To be sure it is hard but it can be learned and I think I enjoy doing hard things. Dr. Fish had a teacher and began work on Monday morning, so no time was wasted.

I suppose it may get prosy after we have been working at it a while but it hardly seems possible when we know it is to be our means of telling these people of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus.

You have had many letters from the foreign field, Dr. Ellinwood, and I suppose it will not seem strange to you when I say that Korea seems like home to me. I can of course see the strange dress and all the strange queer ways of doing things and the houses are not like what I have been used to; yet, it seems as though I had always lived here and strangest of all to me is the fact that I have not been homesick a minute. I was compelled to leave my dear Father in the same condition, and it was hard, yet the way was very plain and it seemed to be God's will for me to come. Since being here I have been even more certain of it.

Dr. Fish, Miss Shields and I have all come to the same conclusion about the whole matter and that is that our Father wanted us to work right here and that is why He has made us all feel so much at home in a strange country and among strange people.

You doubtless know that no medical work was assigned to us for this year, it being expected that we spend our entire time on the language. Of course we are able to help a little by going with the other ladies to call on the women in their homes and also by attending the native service. It was not hard to learn some of the hymns and be able to help with the singing. My work on the piano made it possible for me to begin at once doing something, although the "piano" was a little baby organ.

I suppose you hear from some of the other workers what is going on here. I might say however that the friends are all well and busy.

I hope you will pardon the personal pronouns in this letter but I have no regular work to write you about and could consequently only tell you of some of our personal experiences.

I am not sure that I know how often you care to hear from me but if you will let me know I will endeavor to write as often as you wish.

Yours very sincerely,

Eva H. Field



Dear Father and Mother:

It is surprising how the last few days have slipped away. I finished the last letter to you on the famous Russian steamer, I believe, just before we reached port. Arriving in Chemulpo harbor about 2 p.m. Friday afternoon (3<sup>rd</sup>), I went ashore in the Custom House boat followed by the baggage in a Korean sampan. The Korean coast looks very bare at first sight because of the lack of foliage and yet there is an attractiveness about the rocky bluffs backed by rugged mountain peaks. As we approached Chemulpo I was rather startled by the appearance of the people, for although I knew something about their costume I had not realized what the effect would be *en masse*. The national costume is all white (the nation is in mourning for the Queen just now); loose padded trousers, white shoes (or rather padded stockings), long loose coats reaching below the knees, and tall useless white hats. Apparently the whole town of Chemulpo was out along the water's edge in the sun, and I could think of nothing but a throng of children, dressed in white frocks and sent out to play.

As we landed I was directed at once to a hotel in the place which is kept by Chinamen and there I was soon settled with my hand baggage. I then sent a message off to the Chemulpo railroad office in the hope of finding Mr. Bostwick, and sure enough, in less than an hour he came himself. I soon felt as if I had known him for a month or more. I tell you, two Americans are not likely to stand on ceremony when they meet on the coast of Asia. At least I felt very thankful that I knew of Mr. Bostwick and was able to find him so easily. Through his kindness I sent a telegram to Dr. Whiting in Seoul and made all my arrangements to take the steam launch up the river next day. He even came back next morning and saw that I was well started on the last bit of my journey. The little launch was crowded with Japanese and Koreans, but I was favored by having a corner of the floor in a cabin 7x9x5 (!) with three Japanese and sometimes four. The trip is nearly eight hours by the river and I did grow tired sitting on the floor, but I had a book and the benefit of a little charcoal stove to warm my feet and found one of the Japanese who could speak a little English and kindly sent for coffee to go with my sandwiches. Soon after 5 p.m. we reached our landing place at Yung San and whom should I see coming out in a sampan to meet me but Dr. Field, Miss Shields and Miss Strong, while Dr. Whiting was back on the shore with chairs and coolies to take us up to the city (about five miles). Such was my reception in my new home and a pleasant one it was.

Dr. Whiting is living in the house which belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Gifford, while they are in America and has taken me right in with her. Does it not seem strange that having known each other in College we girls should be living together in this far away land? The Mission has taken no action yet on a permanent location for me. My work assigned is only language study, and unless a change should be made at the next Station meeting I shall probably remain in Seoul and in this house for the next eight or nine months. This district of the city is known as Yun-mot-kol. This house and the girl's school where Miss Doty and Dr. Field are living, are in the same compound. The enclosure is on high ground very nearly in the centre of the city and from the little knoll just at the side of this house we can look out over the city in every direction and away to the mountains that form almost a complete circle around us. How thankful I am for these restful mountains. I love their ragged peaks and scarred sides. From our windows we look out over hundreds of gray Korean roofs. The house faces about S.E. and the first rays of the sun come into the windows of our sitting room and my bedroom. (I shall send you a plan later.)

Well, it was about eight o'clock Saturday evening December 4<sup>th</sup>, when we came up to this dear little house and my journey ended. Dr. Whiting has two Korean servants - a cook and a "boy" - and for the present I am just to live with her and pay my board.

The next day, Sabbath, we walked over to the Union church two and a half miles away and after a helpful service which was a study into the life of prayer, I met most of those connected with the work in Seoul. I know I shall love all the workers here. Another joy was in store for me, for Dr. Whiting secured a teacher for me and Monday forenoon I *began* on the language. So far I have had five days of study on five years of work! Dr. Whiting has been given itinerating work in the country quite recently and on Wednesday morning she started off to be away about two weeks. So I have the house all to myself and go down to the girls' school for my meals. I am not one of the lonely kind, you know, so I get along very nicely. The two boys keep the house in order and when necessary I use pantomime with a Korean word now and then if I can manage one. My freight was forwarded from Chemulpo last week and the first of the boxes came up from the river today by coolies and ponies. I am very, very fortunate. Many of those who come from the east have had to wait three months and more for freight. Dr. Field,

you know, sailed from Vancouver before September 15<sup>th</sup>, and her freight has not yet come.

As I look back over the journey and my arrival here, the blessings of the way are *so* many, and our dear Father's hand has been so evident and so loving in every detail. In Mr. Meyer's book on the life of Joseph he says "God can also raise up friends for His servants in the most unlikely places and of the most unlikely people." And as I read it I thought of the friends He raised up for me, - Miss Lansing in Nagasaki, the Russian on the steamer, the Chinaman in the hotel in Chemulpo, Mr. Bostwick, and the Japanese on the river boat. Everywhere there has been a need He has had someone ready to supply that need. And I believe God prepared the way here and sent me right to Dr. Whiting. I am *thankful, so thankful* to be here. It is a privilege, dear ones. My heart is at rest for I am so sure it is His will. He is able to keep that which I have committed to Him, and in His hand and only by His power I shall be kept humble, and pleasing in His sight. Pray for this. I am ashamed that sometimes there creeps in a little fear of how God may deal with us in the future. It should not be so, for we are in a Father's hand and it is the "all things" which work together for good. But it *is* hard for me to trust for you. I cannot always lay the burden down.

The weather is very cold to me. Ever since we left Nagasaki it has been growing colder. Snow has fallen lightly three times since I came to Seoul, but now the clouds have gone and it is clear and *biting* cold. I like it but am not toned up to it quite yet; so I stay about the stove closely and indulge in a bag for my feet at night. I hope I shall be *braced* for colder weather still in January, for I am wearing all the clothing now that I can comfortably. Many of the people even here in the city are already suffering a good deal, for both wood and rice are very high this year. From what I have seen of the Koreans I love them very much. How one does long to be able to speak to them at once. They seem so receptive and are so very accessible. But the way to the telling of the Gospel story lies at present along a very uphill path. I do desire special help with the language. Now, dear ones, goodnight. God bless you richly and keep you safely in the hollow of His hand.

A heart full of love for you both from

Alice

My little clock is great company. It talks to me every half hour. The muff Miss Walker gave me is a comfort.



Fusan, Korca

December 30, 1897

Cyril Ross

Rev. F.F. Ellinwood, D.D. , 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Ellinwood:

I owe an apology for allowing so much time to expire since my arrival in Korea without writing to you some account of our work. Mrs. Ross and I arrived in Fusan October 11<sup>th</sup>, being fellow passengers with Rev. and Mrs. Moore, Rev. Mr. Hunt, Dr. Eva Field and Miss Shields. We were much gratified to find a substantial brick house for our occupancy in a healthy location. Fusan is quite a pretty place with its winding bays and environing hills and valleys. The harbour with Deer Island at its mouth is picturesque particularly when ships are steaming into the bay.

Rev. and Mrs. Adams moved to Taiku about ten days after our arrival and Miss Chase accompanied them on Mrs. Adams' account. They had a rather slow voyage on the river covering nine days though Taiku is only a hundred miles inland.

There are some 25 boys in our school. We have daily worship which now I superintend as I have acquired a few sentences necessary to announce hymns and Scripture readings. I usually give the boys some drill in calisthenics - a custom I found in vogue here and readily adopted. Mrs. Irvin teaches some girls two or three times a week. It is more difficult to secure their attendance than that of the boys first because they are too busy at home (if such a name can be applied to their abodes) and secondly because of the Korean custom of keeping unmarried women and girls in seclusion.

Dr. Irvin has quite a medical work on his hands. I am told that from thirty to forty patients a day visit the hospital. I have been hoping soon to learn enough of the language to practice it with the patients as they are a class of men usually with a long story and very willing to tell it.

The doctor's teacher is quite an all-round helper. He preaches at times to the patients and at times assists the physician in giving an anesthetic. He is a fine specimen of what kind of a Christian some of these Koreans can be.

Miss Chase being absent for two months, the work outside for women has continued to receive such time and attention as Mrs. Irvin could spare. Dr. Irvin and I accompanied by two native preachers made a trip into the country for the benefit of a few catechumens in the latter part of November and early days of December. During the ten days absence we were glad to find among other things in one city twenty-five miles from Fusan that two catechumens and some women were holding meetings every Lord's day. I could not help being touched in listening to the way they sang our gospel hymns - perhaps I should say tried to sing. I suppose the men had heard them sung a few times while they were visited by the missionaries and while they were visiting Fusan to be received as catechumens. Their hymn books had words only and I might say their music was words only if I did not remember that One who looks upon the heart rather than the outward expression was well pleased with their attempts to praise him to the best of their ability. One of these men has been attending our Christmas exercises in Fusan. If he walked the twenty-five miles to get here solely for this purpose it would not surprise me, as one of our regular worshipers on Sabbath morning is a man who comes in on foot for ten miles.



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Our experience in the country gave me many problems to try to solve concerning the best method of itinerating in the future. One wishes he could learn to relish Korean food and not mind the presence of accompanying filth but even should we succeed he is reminded of how little nourishment there is in it.

We were able to sell, with the aid of our preachers, quite a number of gospel tracts in two cities on the days in which the fairs or markets are held. "Oh! for a word" I would feel like exclaiming every now and again as inquisitive Koreans would ply me with questions. I could tell them the tracts were "Jesus doctrine books" and that "they were very good" and the different prices, but with that I reached about the limit of my vocabulary.

It is quite encouraging to read over the list of publications of the Tract Societies in Korea. There is quite a beginning toward a Christian literature.

Dr. and Mrs. [Woodbridge O.] Johnson arrived here two days before Christmas and left the following day in company with Dr. Irvin for Taiku. We are very glad to welcome newer missionaries to our station. Dr. Irvin particularly was glad as Taiku is a long way off for professional visits in cases of emergency. The Johnsons seemed to be well except for the usual lack of color and tone attendant upon protracted traveling.

Our Christmas exercises were quite encouraging. Mrs. Irvin who had them in charge had taught the boys and girls a lot of Scripture verses which they repeated promptly in answer to questions she asked them in the meeting. She also taught them the Korean of *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*. This sounded especially appropriate. The old school teacher preached the sermon.

Miss Chase has moved into the annex of our house and is preparing to keep house herself. Mrs. Ross has had a few busy days in connection with the hospital when Dr. Irvin was absent, which have interfered with her language study. Then she would be more busy than formerly at home to compensate for the output of time. The training of an incompetent servant takes time too, which we both wish could be rather spent with the teacher were not the urgencies of the situation such as to demand it. I am finding the vernacular little by little more interesting as I recognize a word here and there in conversation.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Cyril Ross

Seoul, Korea

December 31, 1897

Mary Alice Fish

[letter to the Foreign Corresponding Secretary of *The Occidental Board of Foreign Missions*, 920  
*Sacramento Street, San Francisco*]

as printed in *The Occident* and a local newspaper]

"Our first letter from Dr. Alice Fish received by our Foreign Cor. Secretary, is here given to the readers of the *Occident*. In a private letter, she reported her first surgical operation - the amputating of a man's ten toes. Frost and afterwards gangrene had made this necessary. She finds the language the most difficult part of her work now, and this she realized when she sat before five Koreans, with the command, "now talk".

Dear Mrs. Horsburgh:

Saturday evening, December 4<sup>th</sup> I reached my new home, after a journey of thirty-five days, many of them very enjoyable. During the last week when traveling all alone, there were some times of loneliness:

"Yet never alone is the Christian,  
Who lives by faith and prayer;  
For God is a Friend unfailing,  
And God is everywhere."

The Chinese girls at the Home gave me as a parting verse, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world," and the last words I heard from the dock as we steamed away were those of the chorus, "Wash me in the blood of the lamb and I shall be whiter than snow." This is the message I bring to Korea. Precious message, blessed privilege to bear it. I praise God He has permitted me to come. And next to my Heavenly Father, my heart is full of gratitude to all the dear friends of the Occidental Board and of Benicia Presbytery, who, by their interest and prompt and willing gifts, made it possible to come here this fall. I am grateful to you all for the affection and love which you give me and for the support of your gifts and prayers. We know you will not cease to pray for us in Korea, that we may be enabled to take "God's best" for this land.

I am living at present with Dr. Georgiana Whiting (who was a college mate in Philadelphia) in the house which belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Gifford, now in America. We are in the same compound with the Girls' School, where are Miss Doty and Dr. Field. Some very good times we have together. These little girls are as dear as they can be, and the women win one's heart at once. Some of us are wishing with all our hearts that we could at once speak to these people who are so accessible and so ready to listen and often so eager to learn. But it is the faithful language study which daily brings nearer the time when we can begin independent work among them.

How I wish you might have been with us at the morning service last Sabbath in one of the native churches. It was the communion season, the building was crowded and twenty-two women and twenty men were received into the church by baptism. Some of the women had been kept long as catechumens, and their joy was very great at being at last received into the church. All were hushed in prayer during the communion, and at the close sang most heartily, "O, happy day that fixed my choice, on Thee, my Saviour and my God." I am sure that you, too, would have found it impossible to keep back the tears. This blessed work is yours and ours, and we do often wish that you, too, could see such sights and could look into the faces of these dear people. Pray especially for the native helpers, both men and women. Their lives before the people mean so much, and some of them in the country have the responsibility of teaching people where no missionary has been able even to visit.

Our prayers are often and often united for the freedom of the Holy Spirit in His work in the churches at home. From my heart I send as a message to you in the homeland, 2 Thessalonians 1: 11-12, and may the prayer be fulfilled to each and every one.

Thank you, dear Mrs. Horsburgh, for your letter and loving advice. I know God will help me to be prudent as well as faithful.

With warmest love to all, I am

M. Alice Fish

(from the Samuel Hugh Moffett collection of Samuel Austin Moffett papers)





